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Onymization and Appellativization Leading to Incongruity and Humour in *How I Met Your Mother*

Onimizacja i apelatywizacja prowadząca do niespójności i humoru w serialu *Jak poznałem waszą matkę*

The article is devoted to the analysis of the humourous function of anthroponyms in *How I Met Your Mother*.

Słowa kluczowe: onomastyka, onimizacja, apelatywizacja, humor nazw własnych, seriale telewizyjne

Key words: onomastics, onymization, appellativization, humorous proper names, TV series

Introducing the recipient to amusing fictional worlds where there is always a lot going on, situation comedy may be said to have taken (at least to some extent) the place which once belonged to the realm of books. However, little research has been conducted on the linguistic, and especially onomastic, stratum of those programmes. Therefore, this study will concentrate on the anthroponymic material in *How I Met Your Mother*. Apart from their primary (identifying-differential function), the examined nomina propria serve a number of secondary functions, such as for instance the semantic or intertextual functions, and thus require a more detailed study. Nevertheless, in this work only some realizations of one of the functions – the humorous function – will be presented and examined. The main aim of this article will therefore be to demonstrate that the processes of onymization and appellativization stand at the core of the emergence of incongruity which is the source of humour in the perception of some proper names in the discussed series.

Firstly, before the processes of onymization and appellativization can be defined, the categories of nomina propria and nomina appellativa need to be

introduced and differentiated¹. Appellatives designate classes of objects and carry a semantic value (for instance: chair, cup, bed), whereas proper names denote individual entities and do not carry any semantic meaning (Kate, Clough, London) (Rutkowski 2007: 21–22). Then, the processes that are being discussed concern the transition of words between the categories. The simplest definition of onymization² goes as follows: “it is the act of an appellative becoming a proper name”³ (Cieślukowa 2006: 49) and the epitome of this process could be the group of appellatives which first became characterizing nicknames and a few centuries ago stopped being used as such, and became hereditary surnames (thus lost their semantic connection with their denotations and became semantically transparent)⁴. A few of such surnames are for example Cook, Fisher, Hunt, and Smith (Reaney and Wilson 1997: 108, 169, 244, 415). Appellativization, on the other hand, is the exact contrary process in which “a proper name becomes a common noun” (Cieślukowa 2006: 51). Among the examples of such words one could enumerate for instance common words derived from the brand names and trade names (xerox, walkman, cola).

Secondly, in order to see why these two processes contribute to the emergence of incongruity and humour, the latter two concepts should also be explained. The *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* defines incongruity as “the fact of being strange and not suitable in a situation” (Wehmeier 2005: 627) and this definition should be enough to see a connection between incongruity and humour, whose nature has been of scholars' interest since antiquity – Aristotle tried to explain it by saying that “what is humorous is connected with a mistake” (1983: 14), thus providing probably the first definition of humour. Rarely is a mistake appropriate to the situation in which it happens. Thus, many centuries after Aristotle's death, it is the incongruity theory that is fundamental to the

¹ The issue of the scope, boundaries and qualities of the categories of proper names and appellatives has been under debate for many decades and it has still not been decisively resolved. However, since the main focus of this article is more practical rather than theoretical, the theory concerning this problem is presented only as a brief summary of what has hitherto been established. For more detailed analyses of the topic see for instance: chapter 1 of *The Study of Names* by Frank Nuessel, *Polskie nazwy własne: encyklopedia* by Ewa Rzetelska-Feleszko (ed.), and *Nazwy firmowe: propria czy appellativa?* by Bogdan Walczak.

² Onymization and appellativization have been the subject of a number of detailed studies. However, due to the main aim of this article being the examination of extensive onomastic material, the two processes are introduced as briefly as possible. For more comprehensive analyses of appellativization see for instance *Productiveness of Names: Some Semantic and Formal Processes (Preliminary Aspects of Deonymization)* and *Nazwy własne w strukturze metafory i metonimii* (chapter 1.2) by Mariusz Rutkowski, and of both onymization and appellativization see *Onimizacja i apelatywizacja* by Zofia Abramowicz and Elżbieta Bogdanowicz (eds.).

³ All quotations taken from Polish sources were translated into English by the author of the article.

⁴ The issue of anthroponyms created from appellatives was the subject of a detailed study conducted by Aleksandra Cieślukowa in *Odapelatywne nazwy osobowe*.

linguistic studies of humour (Rutkowski 2006: 398). Presuming the existence of an incongruity, this theory is very general and therefore allows for many specifications. One of such was made by Thomas Veatch, who claimed a concurrent occurrence of two different projections of the development of a situation in the recipient's mind to be the source of humour; one of these projections should be basic, correct and the other should include some elements of violation (Veatch 1998: 163). In relation to proper names, the most basic situation of this kind occurs when a *nomen proprium* is interpreted as a *nomen appellativum* (with semantic meaning), and such an interpretation is nothing but an act of appellativization. Obviously, it is not a permanent change, for the recipient realizes his/her mistake and, depending on his/her humorous competence, may be amused. Similarly, situational onymization can also lead to humour.

The nine seasons of *How I Met Your Mother* present the audience with eighty potentially humorous situations based on appellativization and onymization. The material could be simply grouped into two categories corresponding to the two processes, however, each situation would then have to be discussed individually and the whole analysis would lose its clarity and coherence. Therefore, the data was divided into seven more specific groups: foreign names, self-given names, fake etymology, mistaken names, name+appellative, nicknames, private joke, and two general groups: appellativization and onymization, comprising all situations that could not be included in the other groups⁵. In order for the analysis to remain coherent, each of the categories will be illustrated by a few exemplary quotations (allowing the demonstration of possible subgroups or distinctive cases) and all the remaining humorous uses of names shall be listed at the end of the article. The quotations include the names of people saying the respective utterances – the main character who is actually telling his children the story of how he met their mother is called Ted. For the most part of the series, Ted spends time with his best friends: Marshall, Lily, Barney and Robin. The identity of any other people that participate in the humorous situations will be clarified alongside the corresponding quotations.

Foreign Names

A foreign name whose pronunciation coincides with a native appellative phrase may be interpreted as one and therefore amuse the recipient, especially when it is heard not seen. A similarity between a foreign name and a native

⁵ Some situations of the humorous uses of names were difficult to categorize since they could potentially be put into more than one group. However, in order not to affect the overall number of the humorous situations, every example appears in one category only.

common word may also be used intentionally to create jokes – both targeted and not targeted at the name’s denotation. In *How I Met Your Mother*, there are seven such uses of foreign names, the epitome of which may be the following utterance of Ted checking the attendance list:

“Well done. Adding a fake name to the sign-up sheet. That’s real original, guys. You know, I’d expect inspired minds such as yours to be a little more mature, and frankly, more creative. I mean, seriously. What kind of a fake name is **Cook Pu**? Here. Come on, guys. It’s got to at least sound real. Whatever happened to the classics? Right, you know? **Seymour Butts. Hugh Gerection.** Those were fake names, but **Cook Pu**?” together with the response of one of the students: “Here. She’s back here, bro.” (S5E14 02:48min) [compare cook poo, say more butts, huge erection].⁶

Later in the same episode, Ted’s friends make fun of him by creating more “poo” related jokes:

Lily: “We’re not going to make jokes, Ted. That girl must be really down in the dumps.”

Marshall: “You really... smeared the **Pu** name.”

Ted: “You guys finished?”

Robin: “Are you asking us if all the **Pu** is out of our system?” (S5E14 03:28min).

The jokes continue even after the girl quits the class:

Ted: “So, today one of my students told me Cook is dropping my class.”

Marshall: “**Pu** dropped out?”

Robin: “She is flushing her education down the toilet!” (S5E14 12:55min).

Self(Somebody)-Given Names

How I Met Your Mother abounds in situations (at least 23) in which the characters invent new (nick)names for themselves and/or for other characters. Since they do not change their names officially (within the fictional world of course), practically nothing limits their choices. In the majority of examples it is the process of onymization that is employed while creating new names, but there are also some situations in which the fictional figures choose names of authentic people (or institutions – in such a case, the process used is not onymization but transonymization). The epitome of this category can be the choices of names made by Lily and Marshall just after their marriage ceremony:

⁶ Each quotation from *How I Met Your Mother* is labeled with the number of the season and episode in which it appears together with the time the first utterance from the quotation begins: S – Season, E – Episode, min – time.

Lily: "Does it make you kind of sad that we don't share the same last name?"
 Marshall: "You know, in a totally evolved, 21st century kind of way, yeah, a little."
 Lily: "Oh, you know what we should do? We should come up with a new last name."
 Marshall: "Oh, well, that's easy. Lily and Marshall **Skywalker**."
 Lily: "Lily and Marshall **Hasselhoff**."
 Marshall: "I got it. You ready? You ready?"
 Lily: "Yeah."
 Marshall: "Lily and Marshall **Awesome**. Have you met **the Awesomes**? Marshall, Lily... ..their son, **Totally**, and their daughter, **Freaking**." (S2E22 00:14min).

The use of transonymization occurs for instance when Robin invents a name for her therapist based on his features:

Therapist: "Let me guess, you got drunk under your desk again?"
 Robin: "No, **Mr. Harvard**. I handled things a little differently..." (S7E4 14:38min)

Other choices of new names worth mentioning are the choices of common words directly related to the circumstances. They occur especially when the person choosing the name has to choose it under pressure. One of such situations happens when Barney pretends to be his own doppelgänger because he wants to fulfil Lily and Marshall's plan, but is caught by them:

Lily: "What's your name?"
 Barney: "Kristof."
 Lily: "Kristof what?"
 Barney: "Kristof... **Doppelganger**."
 Marshall: "Really? You're gonna go with the last name "Doppelganger"?"
 Barney: "That's my name, man." (S5E24 15:29min)

Fake Etymology

Inventing fake etymology for some words is the speciality of Barney, who uses it to embed his ideas in fake history, thus trying to sound more convincing. To do so, Barney uses mostly onymization and sometimes transonymization, both of which are employed in the story of "Desperation Day":

Barney: "February 13: **Desperation Day**."
 Robin: "That's not a thing."
 Barney: "It's a thing. Much like Valentine's Day itself, Desperation Day dates back thousands of years. Weddings were forbidden under ancient Roman law, so Saint Valentine performed them in secret, under threat of death."
 Ted: "That's actually true."
 Barney: "Wait, there's more."
 Ted: "This won't be."

Barney: “And right by Saint Valentine’s side was his best bro, **Saint Desperatius**, there to pick off insecure bridesmaids.” (S6E16 02:29min) [Saint Desperatius<desperation – onymization, Desperation Day<Saint Desperatius – transonymization].

Mistaken Names

This category comprises the humorous uses of names caused by a person mistaking another person’s name. The humour can arise simply because of the mistake or due to the mistake-provoked comments made by other characters. The epitome of this group may be the following conversation:

Chloe: “Oh, I don’t think we’ve met. I’m Chloe.”

Robin: “Robin.”

Chloe: “It’s nice to meet you, **Roland**. I’ll see you guys later.” [the mistake which triggers the following jokes]

Barney: “Roland? Your name’s **Roland**. That’s funny, right? **Rock and Roland. Warsaw is the capital of what? Roland. You’re Monica Roland-ski**. Hey, yeah, **that’s just how I Roland**.” (S2E7 20:34min).

Name + Appellative

The humorous elements of all names that were created by blending a proper name and a common noun are intentional, for this word-formation process, despite being linguistically possible, would not make sense (and be amusing) with any proprium and any appellativum. The name-inventors choose names and common words with connotations that joined together will say exactly what they are supposed to say. Thus, the meaning of the appellative can become more personalized (referring to a specific character), like for instance happens with Ted’s biological clock:

Lily: “Still, you know, another year older. Still single. You don’t hear your **Ted-ological** clock ticking?” (S1E21 01:51min).

New names can also demonstrate their inventor’s wishful thinking, as happens for example with drunken Marshall, who would like to believe he is similar to Hercules:

“I’m Marshall Eriksen, but you can call me **Beercules!**” (S7E2 06:18min).

Nicknames

This group comprises all nicknames that could not be included in other specific groups. The process that stands at the core of the creation of the majority of these nicknames is onymization. The epitome of this category might be the nickname for God invented by Barney:

“Which is why nothing, not even God himself... yeah, I said it, **Beardy**, is going to stand in the way of tonight being legend...” (S6E18 2:21min).

However, there are also nicknames whose origin resembles blending, but due to a change in morphemes could not be classified as such:

Robin: “And now everyone calls me **Scherpoopie**.” (S6E13 08:18min) [Scherbatsky + poop].

There are also nicknames in which the process of onymization is implicit, as the appellative referring to the emphasized feature was already a part of the chosen name:

Ted: “I mean, you got used to Lily’s loud **chewing**, right?”

Marshall: “Lily doesn’t chew loudly.”

Ted: “Dude... come on. This isn’t news. Why do you think I call her “**Chewbacca**”?”

Marshall: “I assumed because she’s loyal, wears shiny belts and I resemble a young Harrison Ford.” (S3E8 10:49min).

Private Joke

The last specific group that was differentiated is composed of all the occurrences of one type of an onymic joke which appears throughout six seasons of *How I Met Your Mother*. It is based on the homonymy of some English appellatives and military ranks (general, corporal, major...). When used in conversation, such words are recognized by Ted and Robin not as appellatives but as the military ranks, which leads to the next word(s) in the appellative phrases being recognized as the names of the officers (onymization) and the whole phrase being repeated by the two characters while saluting.

Ted: “Back when we are dating Robin and I had this running joke. We were the only two people in the world who found it funny”

Barney: “No way. March does not have 31 days.”

Marshall: “Yes, it does. Everyone knows that. It’s like **general knowledge**.”

Ted and Robin: “**General Knowledge**”

Ted: “And we did it all the time.”

Lily: "Isn't it sad? I mean in 2007, some countries actually still condone **corporal punishment**."

Ted and Robin: "**Corporal Punishment**"

Ted: "Because once you start it's surprisingly hard to stop."

Marshall: "Oh, man, I got a **kernel stuck in my teeth**."

Ted and Robin: "**Colonel Stuck-in-my-teeth**"

Marshall: "Please stop!"

Barney: "I hate you!" (S3E9 00:00min).

Depending on the phrase used by Ted and Robin's friends, the surnames of the officers range from slightly improbable (Baggage) to absolutely ridiculous (Stuck-in-my-teeth).

Onymization and Appellativization

The remaining material was divided into two general categories: onymization and appellativization. The first of them is less numerous as it consists of only six situations, one of which occurs when Barney mistakes the Spanish word for money with Robert De Niro's surname:

Robin: "I don't think you know what Spain is."

Barney: "I know that a trip there costs some serious lira."

Ted: "It's **dinero**."

Barney: "Where? I want his autograph!" S6E20 03:33min.

Finally, the appellativization category consists of humorous situations in which a name was (1) interpreted as an appellative:

A man in a gay bar: "Hey, I really like your sweater."

Robin: "You actually do, don't you? You're not checking out my boobs or anything."

The man: "My name's **Gay Ken**. What do you think?"

Robin: "I love this place. Let's dance." S2E10 15:22min.

(2) suggested to be interpreted as a common word:

Marshall: "I've ranked the Presidents in order of how dirty their names sound. One: Johnson. Two: Bush. Three: Harding. Four: Polk." S4E22 13:53min [additionally on the chart he is holding: 5.Filmore 6. Pierce 7.LBJ 8.Hoover 9.Bush 10.Clinton].

(3) used as a part of an appellative:

Barney: "No, Virginia, you're delightful, I am deligh-**Ted**. And he's just **Ted** (pointing at Ted)" S2E3 08:06min.

Conclusions

How I Met Your Mother presents numerous situational appellativizations and onymizations which result in the emergence of incongruities and thus also possible humorous reactions of the viewers. Among eighty such situations, there are at least seven patterns according to which the analysed processes are introduced into the series, which shows the productivity of some onymic situations (for instance nicknaming or misinterpreting foreign names). Moreover, the research proved onymization to be the process most often used to cause the emergence of humorous situations. It was used sixty times, always in situations whose humorous element is intentional (the groups: Self(Somebody)-Given Names, Fake Etymology, Mistaken Names, Name+Appellative, Nicknames and Private Joke). Apart from onymization, intentional humour is also the result of transonymization – used independently only twice. The remaining eighteen amusing situations result from appellativization, and are supposed to be unintentional. It is also important that the occurrences of onymization and appellativization in the series are not permanent, they simply need to appear for the incongruity to emerge. Finally, due to the application of the analysed processes, the humorous function becomes one of the secondary onymic functions performed by the onomastic material of *How I Met Your Mother*.

The remaining humorous uses of names based on onymization and appellativization:	
Foreign Names	
1	Barney: "What's his name?" Gael: "Gael." Ted: "I'm sorry, Gayle?" Gael: "Gael." Barney: "Kyle?" Gael: "Gael." Marshall: "Girl?" S3E1 02:19min and Marshall: "Lily, Ted is our best friend, so let's get something straight: Male Gayle is not hot. He's not our friend. Don't even look at him. Just... no eye contact" S3E1 04:49min
2	Ted: "And then, at the end of the meal, Frank Gehry slides the check over to I.M. Pei, and he says, "Buddy, tonight, your name is I.M. Paying."" S4E21 17:10min
3	Ted: "It's Edward James Olmos." Barney: "You're Olmos correct. It's Jacob James Olmos." S7E5 20:46min [compare almost]
4	Marshall: "Why couldn't the art dealer pay his rent? Because he ran out of Monet ." S8E18 2:12 min
5	Strickland (a painter): "The first painting I ever sold, I used the money to get my car fixed. You might say... I used it to make my van go ." S8E18 17:28min

Self(Somebody)-given Names	
1	The lady owner of a matchmaking service: "And you didn't use an obvious alias on your application like your friend " Jack Package ."" Barney: "It's pronounced Puh-kaj" The lady owner: "Get out of here!" S1E7 04:40min
2	Ted: "I feel a little guilty because I'm not the one who saved you that day. The guy who actually saved you was... named... Lance Hardwood ." Barney: "Lance Hardwood, yeah." A pornographic film star acting under the name of Ted Mosby: "Really? You know, you might not know this, but, in my business, that's kind of a killer name." S3E6 14:32min
3	Robin: "So you're not getting a divorce?" Lily: "No." Ted: "Wow, you guys scared us." Barney: "Oh, thank God. 'Cause, I mean if you did, then, who'd be the lame married couple I get to make fun of? Like, „Hey, Marshall, you married Miss Right . You just didn't know her first name was Always ."" S3E7 19:00min
4	Barney: "Brother, lay your hand on this box of condoms and repeat after me. I, state the fake name you give to women." A man joining the fraternity of non-paternity: "I, Johnny Banana ." Barney: "Vow to always choose wet T-shirts over wet diapers." S4E7 14:41min
5	Drunk Barney: "It's Barn Door . Guess what? I'm open." Robin: " Barn Door , hang on. I'm getting another call." Drunk Ted: "Hey, Robin. It's Teddy Bear . Need a little honey?" S5e21 15:58min And Robin: " Teddy Bear! Barn Door! " Barney: "Papa?" Robin: "Rise and shine, jackasses!" S5E21 18:33min
6	Marshall: "So, have you guys landed on a name yet?" Stuart: "We're trying, but it's tougher than you think. You see, I like "Tiffany."" Claudia: "And I don't want my daughter to have a whore's name." Stuart: "That's my mother's name." Claudia: "I know." Stuart: "I got it. How'bout we name the baby after you... " Frigid Shrew ."" Claudia: "That's good. Let's call her " Vodka ." Then at least we know you'd hold her tight and never let her go!" S6E6 00:09min
7	Lily: "Tell me who you slept with!" Robin: "I don't want to get into it." Lily: "It's someone we know. If it was some ding dong we didn't know, you'd just give me his name." Robin: "Fine. It's Bill Pepper ." Lily: " Bill Pepper . Kind of a coincidence there happens to be a bill and a pepper shaker here on the table. Any chance you and Bill had a three-way with Fork Napkin ?" S6E7 07:06min
8	Ted: "So, Captain. How'd you get that name, anyway?" Captain: "Gave it to myself. A real man chooses his own name." Ted: "Well, pleased to meet you, Captain. I'm Galactic President Superstar McAwesomeville ." Zoey: "This is Ted." S6E8 07:07min

9	Young Marshall about his older self: "There he goes. The Marathon Man. Mr. Stamina himself." S6E8 18:30min
10	Ted: "Anyway. I looked up his address in your contact list." Robin: "God. Tell me sou didn't go over there." Ted: "I just thought... he needed to listen to common sense and reasonable discourse ." Robin: "God. Tell me those aren't the names of your fists." Ted: "They're my feet. I'm more of a kicker." S6E13 14:51min
11	Ted: "Like tonight, she wants me to just come over and bake cookies." Robin: "Translation: booty-call." Barney: "Total booty-call." Lily: " Private Booty , reporting for duty." S6E16 00:38min
12	Ted: "Daniel Burnham was an architect whose ever-shifting style and aesthetic made him a true architectural chamma-leeon . And only the most gifted chamma-leeon could've designed classic beaux arts masterpieces right alongside sleek modern flatirons. His name might as well have been Daniel Chamma-leeon ." A student: "Professor? Do you mean „chameleon”?" S6E19 02:44min
13	Barney: "Why? JJ started it. What does JJ even stand for anyway? Jerky... Jerkface ?" Barney's dad: "JJ stands for Jerome Jr." S6E19 17:08min
14	Robin: "Which reminds me, why am I calling a hair salon and saying, " Jack Fantastic is quitting"?" S7E4 10:47min [one of Barney's fake names]
15	Barney: "You made that in my bathroom?" Marshall: "Whoops." Robin: "Wow, a hurricane baby." Ted: "Oh, man, Hurricane Eriksen would be a sweet name." Marshall: "It would be a crazy sweet name!" Lily: "Thanks, Ted." S7E9 16:44min
16	Barney: "I call her Better Lily . Hey, Better Lily , please dance for my friend." S7E14 07:38min [name for a stripper]
17	Barney: "I, Ted Evelyn Mosby..." Ted: "I, Ted Why Did I Ever Tell You My Middle Name " Mosby..." Barney: "...solemnly swear not to tell our friends" S7E19 01:33min
18	Barney: "Do you, Ted Middle-Name-Omitted Mosby, swear to uphold this Broath?" S7E19 02:01min
19	Barney: "Okay, listen, I am going to get you to that hospital or die trying. And if I succeed, I ask only one thing in return. Let me choose your child's middle name. Because I have thought up the most awesome name of all time." Marshall: "What's the middle name?" Barney: " Wait for it ..." Marshall: "I'm waiting." Barney: " Wait for it ..." Marshall: "I said I'm waiting." Barney: " Wait for it ." Marshall: "What's the middle name?" Barney: "No, the middle name is " Wait For It ." Let's say his first name is, oh, I don't know, Barney. He'd be Barney " Wait For It " Eriksen. How awesome is that?" Marshall: "That is... the coolest... middle name of all time." Barney: "I know!" S7E23-24 02:44min

20	Robin: "We're gonna need bigger melons and smaller patches. Otherwise, your establishment is not where Barney Stinson is gonna pitch his tent. B-Dawg, Barn Door, Stinson-natti, Bro-hio! " S8E7 09:26min
Fake Etymology	
1	Ted: "Why do they call it "karaoke," anyhow? Was it invented by a woman named Carrie Okie ? These are the kinds of things I think about." A woman he flirts with: "' Karaoke " is Japanese for empty orchestra." S1E10 17:44min
2	Barney: "You never called dibs ." Ted: "Dibs were implied." Barney: "Implied dibs? You are spitting on the grave of Sir Walter Dibs , inventor of the dibs." S6E1 03:10min
3	Barney: "The Bro Code can trace its lineage all the way back to Broses himself." (...) "This sacred text was eventually brought to the New World in 1776 by none other than Christopher Bro Columbus ." S9E4 10:30 min
Mistaken names	
1	Marshall: "So Ted and Zoey... they're in love with each other, which would be fine if Zoey wasn't married to Colonel Mustard . I mean, The Captain." S6E15 18:19min [mistake made on the basis of the game card representing the Captain]
2	Ted: "Hey." Lily: "Hey! How was your big date with the Snuffy Tuffkin ? The Sniffy Napkin ? The Slouchy Foreskin ? Lily tie-tie." S7E8 06:53min [the real nickname: Slutty Pumpkin]
Name+appellative	
1	Barney: "You gave me the Ken doll ? You-- She left out little Barney. Barnacle Junior. My Barnana is..." S2E13 21:14min
2	Barney: "Think of me as Yoda as Yoda, only instead of being little and green, I wear suits and I'm awesome. I'm your bro. i'm Bro-da ." S3E5 15:55min
3	Lily: "Oh, my God, Sasser. Fart much?" Sasser: "No, it wasn't me. It was her." Lily: "As if, Sasser. More like Gasser. Gasser! " S4E6 07:42min
4	Ted: "I want to be your slap-prentice." Robin: "Don't sell yourself short there. You're a slapping rock star. Your name should be Eric Slapton ." S5E9 08:55min
5	Lily: "I'm sorry I yelled like that before. I call him " Marshpillow ." And he calls me... Nothing because he's a pillow." S6E16 04:49min
6	Barney: "The tragic cost of a broken Broath Uh-huh. dates back to Ancient Bro-man times... Hey, Bro-tus , you'd tell me if, like, a bunch of dudes were conspiring to assassinate me, right?" S7E19 09:14min
7	Barney: "He's a dog. I've named him Brover ." S8E5 02:01min
8	Ted: "And where's the worst abuser of my generosity, Barney? Or should I say, " Borrow-ney "?" S8E10 01:42 min [compare borrow]
9	Barney (to Ted): "My son... for many years this apartment has been my Fortress of Barnitude . But now the time has come for me to pass it on. Soon, this place will become your " Fortress of Soli-Ted .'" S8E19 6:17 min

10	<p>Lily: “So I was driving with my friend, who thinks he’s “The Road Trip Master.” He has leather driving gloves. [...] And he always makes us stop to see some weird roadside attraction no one except him gives a crap about. [...] And he won’t go one mile an hour over the speed limit.”</p> <p>Tracy (Ted’s future wife): “That would drive me crazy. I would give him a humiliating nickname until he stopped driving like a little girl.”</p> <p>Ted: “It was “Lady Tedwina Slowsby.”” S9E1-2 10:20 min</p>
11	<p>Barney: “Anyway, the elixir was such a success, he was awarded the Bro-bel Prize.” S9E18 6:11min</p>
Nicknames	
1	<p>Robin: “I can hang out with Marshall whenever I want. Right, Marsh Madness?”</p> <p>Marshall: “No doubt, Robo Cop.” S6E11 2:58min</p>
2	<p>Lily: “Great. So go make nice with Captain Creepy, and problem solved.” S6E11 5:11min</p>
3	<p>Lily: “Guys, cut it out. Scooby, sit.”</p> <p>Marshall: “So, Scooby, if you’re going to hang out with Robin, you should be properly vetted.”</p> <p>Ted: “We hope our nosiness doesn’t give you “paws.””</p> <p>Lily: “How did you meet? Tell us the “tail.””</p> <p>Marshall: “How did you “whisker” off her feet?”</p> <p>Ted: “Shed a little light on the matter.”</p> <p>Lily: “Did you send her an e-mail, or did you “collar”?”</p> <p>Robin: “Guys, stop hounding him. Oh, geez.”</p> <p>Marshall: “You’re right. We don’t want your new guy to “flea.””</p> <p>Lily: “We’re trying to make sure he’s not a heel.”</p> <p>Ted: “So, moving from Canada, that transition must have been pretty “ruff.””</p> <p>Scooby: “Sure was. My part of Canada’s pretty different from New York.”</p> <p>Lily: “I bet it was an Incredible Journey”</p> <p>Marshall: “What part of Canada is that? Speak.”</p> <p>Scooby: “Labrador.”</p> <p>Lily: “This isn’t happening.” S6E18 08:57min</p>
4	<p>Ted: “This morning I was talking to the foreman.”</p> <p>The foreman: “Hey, hotshot.” Ted: “You know, Rod, I’m loving that nickname, and I can tell it’s totally affectionate, but I’d prefer Ted.” The foreman: “Yeah, but you’re such a hotshot, I figured I’d just call you hotshot. Pick one. And make sure you like it. There’s going to be 50,000 of these in your big, hotshot building, hotshot.” S6E24 04:00min</p>
Private joke	
1	<p>Ted: “And then a funny thing happened...”</p> <p>Robin’s date: “It’s really a major buzz-kill.”</p> <p>Ted and Robin: “Major Buzz-kill” S3E9 18:09min</p>
2	<p>Ted: “This is gonna be major cleanup”</p> <p>Robin, Marshall, Barney and Lily: “Major Cleanup”</p> <p>Marshall: “Oh man, we’re gonna be doing this all the time now, aren’t we?”</p> <p>Robin: “That’s the general idea”</p> <p>Ted, Marshall, Barney and Lily: “General Idea” S3E9 20:52 min</p>

3	Robin: “Look, guys, this is a private thing between me and Ted.” Ted and Robin: “ Private Thing. ” S4E12 07:37min
4	Barney: “Only women with major baggage go into porn.” Ted and Robin: “ Major Baggage. ” S5E23 01:26min
5	Ted and Robin: “ Major Craving-for-a-mojito. ” Lily: “Oh, God, we’re back to your stupid little private joke again? Are you guys really still doing this seven years later? It’s so annoying. Just stop it.” Ted and Robin: “ Private Joke-again-are-you-guys-really-still-doing-this-seven-years-later-it’s-so-annoying-just-stop-it. ” S9E9 1:09 min
6	Ted: “It’s been a major pleasure.” Ted and Robin: “ Major Pleasure. ” S9E23-24 4:12 min
Onymization	
1	Ted: “All right, don’t tell your mom, but I got you guys some presents.” Ted’s nephew: “Like the gift of God’s love?” Ted: “No, dude, real presents.” Ted’s nephew: “Uncle Ted got us presents.” Ted’s cousin: “That’s okay, Ted. We’ll just give them to charity. ” Charity: “Yey!” Ted’s cousin: “Not you, Charity. I meant the less fortunate.” S2E11 18:54min
2	Ted: “So then this hot intern leans over my desk, I can totally see she has a pierced... [Robin enters] Brosnan. Pierce Brosnan is my favorite of all the bonds.” S3E9 00:52min
3	Lily: “What simple act will get the boys to finally forgive each other?” Robin: “Sharing a brandy. Which is what I walked in on my parents doing once. Brandy was my father’s mistress. God, parents. Right?” S6E22 15:18min
4	Ted: “We’re gonna go see Only Marshall and One-Of-A-Kind Lily because they’re our best friends and they’re only 46 minutes away.” S7E14 18:27min
5	Ted: “In a city of eight million people, you happened to walk into the club where she works? Maybe it’s destiny. ” Barney: “No, Destiny strips at The Melon Patch. They’re people, Ted; try to keep them straight.” S7E18 04:20min
Appellativization	
1	Lily: “Great. Now my mom’s making me invite the Lessners. This puts our numbers in the triple digits.” Robin: “Wow, I guess sometimes Lessner is more-ner. You know how sometimes less is more?” Ted: “This is one of those times, sweetie.” S2E21 01:00 min
2	A kid: “Who are you?” Robin: “Um, I’m Robin. ” The kid: “That’s a bird’s name.” Robin: “Ah, no, it’s not it’s actually a type of bird. ” The kid: “My friend Patrick has a parakeet named Robin, so there.” S3E4 08:59 min
3	Marshall to a woman Ted likes: “My wife’s always getting on me about my dry elbows. So good to be in a relationship. Anyone special in your life? Or maybe just someone you’re interested in? Interes- Ted in?” S3E13 13:56 min

4	Barney: "If I can talk a stripper into paying me for a lap dance, I think I can talk my way out of a ticket. Challenge accep-- Wait for it. [Barney point at Ted]" (chuckles) Ted: "I don't get it. Oh, „Ted.” „Accep-Ted.”” S4E23 07:04min
5	Lily: "I've mentioned it tons of times. " Lunch Lady Scooter. " Marshall: "I thought that you were referring to some sort of long overdue device that carries around those poor, underappreciated lunch ladies!" S5E16 05:31min
6	Barney: "You know how I got a guy for everything? Well, they're all in New York. My suit guy, my shoe guy, my ticket guy, my club guy. And if I don't have a guy for something, then I have a guy guy to get me a guy. And oddly enough, his name is Guy. " S7E11 09:27min
7	(Barney is using charades so that Marshall says his name.) Marshall: "That's a knee. It's a beautifully drawn knee , so? That's a barn . Oh, knee barn , right. That's a great idea, Lily. On the way home, we should stop at the knee barn , pick us up some wholesale knees." S8E11-12 10:06 [compare Barney]

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Summary

The aim of the article is to analyse the humorous uses of anthroponyms in *How I Met Your Mother*. It has been claimed in the analysis that it is the processes of appellativization and onymization which produce the humorous effects, as these processes constitute the basis for the emergence of the incongruity in the reception of the proper names. The collected material is examined in thematic groups.

Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest analiza humorystycznych użyć antroponimów w serialu telewizyjnym *Jak poznałem waszą matkę*. Za podstawę pojawienia się w badanych nazwach elementu humorystycznego uznano procesy apelatywizacji i onimizacji prowadzące do niespójności w odbiorze onimów. W wyniku przeprowadzonej analizy opisano i pogrupowano tematycznie osiemdziesiąt przypadków sytuacyjnej onimizacji i apelatywizacji.

W artykule poddano analizie funkcję humorystyczną antroponimów w *Jak poznałem waszą matkę*.