

Theoretical Foundations, Research of Toponyms

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Abstract: Among the numerous problems that linguists are working to solve, a special place is occupied by the study of onomastic vocabulary, namely the toponymy of a particular country or its separate region. This is due, first of all, to the peculiarities of this class of vocabulary, since geographical names, in addition to performing the address-index function, also contain additional information concerning the historical past of the people, their culture, the history of the language, its lexical composition and ways to replenish it.

Key words: toponym, words, history, origin, onomastic, culture, territory, name, linguistics.

Under the "toponym" we, according to M. V. Gorbanevsky, we understand "a component of the real system of geographical names (belonging to a given ethnic group and its history, culture, territory of residence, etc.), having a common linguistic history and, at the same time, a separate historical and cultural biography" [2,39] Geographical names of a certain territory have a great semantic meaning. In this paper, it is the linguoculturological aspect of toponymy that is of main interest to us. Toponymy is one of those scientific branches where linguistics, historical science, cultural studies, ethnography and geography directly intersect. Studying the composition of geographical names, we discover not only ancient names, but also observe the history of a particular locality, territory, country as a whole.

Onomastics (from the Greek *onomastikós* - referring to the name, *onoma* - name, name), 1) a branch of linguistics that studies proper names, the history of their origin and transformation as a result of long-term use in the source language or in connection with borrowing into other languages. 2) Proper names of various types (onomastic vocabulary), onymy, which, in accordance with the designated objects, is divided into anthroponymy, toponymy, zoonymy (proper names of animals), astronomy, cosmonymy (names of zones and parts of the Universe), theonymy (names of gods), etc. Onomastic studies help to identify migration routes and places of former settlement of various peoples, linguistic and cultural contacts, the more ancient state of languages and the ratio of their dialects. Toponymy (especially hydronymy) is often the only source of information about extinct languages and peoples [9] (proper name), which serves to distinguish the object named by it from other objects. Onomasticon is a set of proper names in any language, among a particular people, on a specific outlined territory. Onomastics studies the system of proper names. Onomasticons also mean various dictionaries of proper names. Sometimes, in the narrow sense, onomasticon means a register of personal names, that is, anthroponymy. Within the onomasticon, both more universal and more specific onyms can be distinguished, while the boundaries between them are mobile and can change. Nevertheless, together they allow us to characterize the language as a semantic and cultural universe. Onomastic material has always been and remains the object of close study by modern

linguists, since it is at the very "peak" of anthropocentric "evolution" [8,226]. Onomastic vocabulary has a huge linguistic and cultural potential. At the moment, onomastics has not been studied enough from the side of pragmatic and linguoculturological information. As E.L. rightly noted. Berezovich, simply declaring the fact of the cultural and historical value of a proper name is not enough, but it is necessary to develop a methodology for extracting cultural and historical information from the onomasticon, as well as a methodology for describing and interpreting this information [1,39]. We can regard this work as one of the steps to implement this task. As you know, onomastic material refers to the background vocabulary. For successful interlanguage and intercultural communication, it is necessary not only to learn the linguistic patterns, but also to have an idea of the national and cultural characteristics of the language of the native people, as well as to master the background knowledge of foreign culture. In this paper, we have focused on the linguistic and cultural properties of toponyms in the onomasticon.

Considering the onomastic space from the side of historical, ideological and national-ethnic specifics, there is a need to use this term in two senses. On the one hand – as a general linguistic category, i.e. as a system of onomastic units, which serves for a more specific (special) allocation of real and imaginary objects of reality; on the other – as a category of a specific language in a given period of its history. So, for example, the onomastic space of the English language is a set of proper names that currently exist in the English language. The onomastic space of different historical epochs, territories, cultures and peoples cannot be the same, since various denotations lend themselves to onymization. From this it can be concluded that it is the model of the world that exists in the representation of a certain people at a given time that determines the onomastic space, while elements of previous eras are always preserved in it [8,231]. A.V. Superanskaya expanded the interpretation of this term, describing it as "the sum of proper names used to name objects and individual states perceived subjectively. This also includes the names of inanimate objects, places on the Earth's surface (and beyond), the names of ideas, movements, sounds, as well as individual living beings [7,48]. Developing this topic, we can talk about the toponymic space, which consists in strictly defined places of names of certain types. Since the main function of toponyms is to fix objects geographically, in the individual representation of each person, a specific geographical name is associated with a well-known place and epoch. Due to the spatial distribution, toponyms are representatives and keepers of a significant amount of cultural information. In other words, toponyms can be considered a kind of linguistic monuments of their era. Currently, the general onomastic theory covers a typical set of onomastic categories (groups, subgroups, categories) characteristic of most languages (peoples) in the given or studied period of their development (ideally, from the moment of the appearance of the opposition of the vocabulary of their own and common). To date, the onomastic space of most peoples of the world, i.e. the totality of proper names of all categories used by a certain people in a particular period, covers a wide and diverse range of subjects.

Toponym (from Greek. topos – "place" and onyma – "name, name") is a proper name denoting the proper name of a locality, region, locality, relief object, any part of the Earth's surface, that is, a geographical name [10,56]. Toponyms, that is, the names of places or objects, are often given by the autochthonous population of a certain territory, for which each of the toponyms has its own semantic

meaning. This makes it possible to establish, for example, that a certain territory was once inhabited by a people different from those currently living there. Thus, toponyms often describe the territory from the point of view of the peoples who once inhabited a particular area. "Toponyms are an expression of people's worldview, culture, way of life, customs, their everyday environment, psychological state and communication" [6,247]. Toponyms are a subject of social cognition. They arise in the process of mastering objective phenomena in the geographical environment and the ethno-linguistic composition of the population. Since geographical names have a linguistic nature, toponymy is considered a branch of linguistics and has close ties with: onomastics – a science that studies the history of the origin and transformation of proper names; historical linguistics; etymology – a science that studies the origin of words; semantics; morphology; phonetics and dialectology. The science that deals with the study of toponyms is called toponymy. Toponymy is a science that studies geographical names, their origin, semantic meaning, development, current state, spelling and pronunciation (Academic.ru, <http://dic.academic.ru/dic.nsf/bse/>). According to E.M. Murzaev, "toponymy is an integral scientific discipline that is located at the junction of three sciences and uses data from three fields of knowledge of these sciences: geography, history and linguistics" [4,56]. Toponymy is an integral part of onomastics, a branch of linguistics that studies the names of localities. The term "toponymy" appeared in Russian literature in the 1920s. Later, according to N.V. Podolskaya, toponomastics became its competing term, which created an unnecessary doublet. In the work "Dictionary of Russian Onomastic Terminology" the concept is given: "onomastics (toponomastics) is a branch of linguistics that studies any proper names"[5,46].

In the works of M.V. Gorbanevsky, a toponym is considered as a kind of social sign reflecting the time and environment in which it exists. It is true that geographical names are sensitive to changes in society, but at the same time they are stable and survive epochs, being monuments and a source of valuable information for linguists [2,39]. Toponyms are a reflection of the worldview of peoples and cultures living in a particular territory. Thanks to diachronic research, it is possible to trace the laws of language development, changes in vocabulary, determine the original form of words, their history and connection with other languages, as well as identify words that have disappeared from the dictionary. Thus, among other functions, geographical names also perform a cumulative function.

According to V.A. Maslova, language is closely connected with culture, since it "not only names what is in culture, not only expresses it, forms culture, sprouting into it, but also develops itself in culture" [3,208]. The specificity of a geographical name as a proper name is that its meaning includes the following components: pre-understanding (etymological), proper toponymic (direct geographical meaning) and post-toponymic, i.e. the variety of associations that arise in a person as a result of acquaintance with the object. In this sense, toponyms are not simple terms of geography – in their semantic structure they contain a vivid cultural component, being part of the culture of a certain ethnic group in a particular era and, at the same time, are an element of the lexical layer of the language. The toponymic picture of the world is an integral part of the linguistic picture of the world. Toponyms are represented as an integral part of onomastics and

act as sign names in the language. In geographical names, linguistic and cultural information is "preserved" in a certain way. Due to their stability, toponyms acquire the ability to preserve and transmit it.

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