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Toponymy as An Integral Part of Onomastics

Samanova Shaxlo Baxtiyarovna

*Teacher, English faculty 1, the department of theoretical aspects of the English language, Uzbekistan state world Languages University,
shahlosamanova134@gmail.com*

ANNOTATION

This work is due to the deep interest in the interaction of culture and language. Being part of the onomastic material, geographical names are multifaceted linguistic units that testify to intercultural language contacts. In the presented work, toponyms are considered from the point of view of the linguoculturological aspect, which is a new direction in linguistics and allows us to trace the connection between culture and language.

KEYWORDS: *culture and language, intercultural language contacts, linguoculturological aspect, toponym, geographical names, ethnography and geography.*

Among the many 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 an address-indicative function, also contain additional information regarding the historical past of the people, their culture, and the history of the language, its lexical composition and ways to replenish it.

By “toponym” we, according to M.V. Gorbanevsky, understand “a component of a real system of geographical names (belonging to a given ethnic group and its history, culture, territory of residence, etc.) that have a common linguistic history and, at the same time, a separate historical and cultural biography” (Gorbanevsky, 1994: 22).

Geographical names of a certain territory have a great semantic meaning. In this work, 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 area, territory, country in a complex, as a whole.

Here we wanted to write about Onomastics. Onomastics (from the Greek *onomastikós* - related to the name, *ónoma* - name, name), 1) a section of linguistics that studies proper names, the history of their occurrence and transformation as a result of prolonged 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), astronmy, cosmonymy (names of zones and parts of the Universe), theonymy (names of gods), etc. Onomastic research helps to reveal the migration routes and places of former settlement of various peoples, linguistic and cultural contacts, the more ancient state of languages and the correlation of their dialects. Toponymy (especially hydronymy) is often the only source of information about disappeared languages and peoples (Great Soviet Encyclopedia). (Proper name), which serves to distinguish the object named by it from other objects. Onomasticon - a set of proper names in any language, among a separate people, in a specific delineated territory. Onomastics studies the system of proper names.

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Onomasticons are also understood as various dictionaries of proper names. Sometimes, in a narrow sense, an 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. However, taken together, they make it possible to characterize 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" (Toporov, 1962).

Onomastic vocabulary has a huge linguoculturological potential. At the moment, from the side of pragmatic and linguoculturological information, onomastics has not been studied enough. As rightly noted by E.L. Berezovich, a simple declaration of 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 (Berezovich, 1998: 7). We can regard this work as one of the steps in the implementation of this task. As you know, onomastic material belongs to the background vocabulary. For successful interlingual and intercultural communication, it is necessary not only to learn the language 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 a foreign culture. In this work, we focused on the linguocultural properties of toponyms in the composition of the onomasticon. Onim (proper name) is a word, phrase or sentence that serves to distinguish the object named by it from others in the same class. The set of onyms is denoted by the term "onymy", as well as the term "onomastics" (Encyclopedia of the Russian language).

In addition to the ability to convey information that is meaningful for the recipient, onyms make the same information closed to representatives of other cultures, since, like all proper names, they represent specific realities related to the background vocabulary. Thus, interest in the phenomenon of proper name is relevant, since onomastic material has the most important linguistic source of information about spiritual culture. Onomastic realities make it possible to work with linguoculturological and pragmatic information, which is still not sufficiently involved in scientific circulation. Within the framework of such a direction as linguoculturology, which was formed at the intersection of linguistics and cultural studies, in the 70-80s. the study of the relationship between culture and language has acquired new dimensions and perspectives.

Proper names, which are the object of study of onomastics as a socio-historically established science, arise and function in specific conditions as the most important elements of communication. Proper names perform not only a nominative function, naming an object, identifying it, distinguishing it from a number of other objects, but also contain background information about the belonging of the bearer of a proper name in a certain nationality, act as linguoculturological markers in a communicative act based on established associative representations.

So, for example, the name Vasily in most representatives of European peoples evokes associations according to the belonging of the bearer of this name to the Russian ethnic group, and the name Kevin is associated with the English-speaking nation. Such a formulation of the question allows us to attribute names to the class of onomastic realities as non-equivalent vocabulary, characteristic of speakers of a certain language and culture and alien to representatives of another ethnic group.

Toponym (from the Greek *topos* - "place" and *onima* - "name, name") - a proper name, denoting the proper name of a locality, region, settlement, relief object, any part of the Earth's surface, that is, a geographical name (Vorobeva, 1972: 13). 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 people once lived in a certain territory, different from those living there at the present time.

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Thus, toponyms often describe the territory from the point of view of the peoples who once inhabited this or that area. "Toponyms are an expression of the attitude of people, culture, life, customs, their everyday environment, psychological state and communication" (Rylyuk, 1999: 7-8).

Toponyms are the subject of social knowledge. They arise in the process of assimilation of objective phenomena in the geographical environment and the ethno-linguistic composition of the population. Since geographical names are of a linguistic nature, toponymy is considered a branch of linguistics and has close ties with: onomastics - a science that studies the history of the emergence and transformation of proper names; historical linguistics; etymology - the science that studies the origin of words; semantics; morphology; phonetics and dialectology. The science that studies toponyms is called toponymy.

Toponymy is a science that studies geographical names, their origin, semantic meaning, development, current state, spelling and pronunciation. According to E.M. Murzaev, "toponymy is an integral scientific discipline that is located at the intersection of three sciences and uses data from three areas of knowledge of these sciences: geography, history and linguistics" (Murzaev, 1974: 25).

Toponymy is an integral part of onomastics - a section of linguistics that studies the names of the area. The term "toponymy" appeared in Russian literature in the 1920s. Later, its competing term, according to N.V. Podolskaya, became toponomastics, which created an unnecessary doublet (Podolskaya, 1970: 47). In the work "Dictionary of Russian Onomastic Terminology" the concept is given: "onomastics (toponomastics) is a section of linguistics that studies any proper names" (Podolskaya, 1978: 97).

Toponymy is a collection of geographical names that were formed during a certain historical time. In linguistics, geographical names often serve as the only evidence of long-extinct languages, and in other cases, being part of the linguistic wealth of the people, they make it possible to reveal important facts of historical phonetics, grammar, and word formation. Modern toponymic research is necessarily based on data from archeology, history, geography, paleontology, without which toponymy would not have the necessary scientific justification.

Geographical names perform an address function for specific geographical objects, and the information embedded in them contains information about the shape, size, properties of these objects and their significance in human life. The main meaning and main purpose of any geographical name is to fix a specific place on the surface of the Earth.

Toponyms can be divided into two broad categories: the names of settlements and the names of physical and geographical objects. Locality names designate a locality, inhabited or uninhabited, it can be any plot or farm, village or city, and usually dates from the beginning of the founding or settlement of the given locality. The names of geographical objects include natural or physical characteristics of the landscape, they are divided into hydronyms (water bodies), oronyms (names of raised landforms) and places of natural growth of vegetation (meadows, glades, groves).

Like all proper names, toponyms are part of the language. Names in general are rarely chosen at random, and this is especially true in the case of geographic features. The names of objects can carry any physical characteristics, such as Mont Blanc ("White Mountain"), or can be given in honor of famous prominent personalities (Washington, DC).

They can also be given to commemorate a historical event or designate who owned this or that object (the city of Paris from Lutetia Parisiorum - Lutetia Parisiorum). In any case, they have already been used in the language before and, therefore, correspond to the grammatical and spelling rules of a particular language. Languages are the subject of study of linguistics. Therefore, anyone involved in the study of toponyms should have some basic linguistic knowledge, both general and more specific, relevant to the linguistic situation in the area of study.

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At present, the linguoculturological direction, which deals with the study of the interaction of culture and language, is quite relevant and corresponds to modern trends in the development of scientific knowledge. The focus of the study of linguoculturology is the close relationship between language and culture, as well as the interaction of these phenomena in national-cultural self-consciousness and its linguistic presentation.

From this point of view, we consider language as a unique and specific phenomenon, presented to us in the form of a system of concepts, reflecting the totality of ideas about the world, which constitutes the language picture of the world. Considered as a means of expression, proper names are a source of folk culture and mentality, preserving the cultural and historical information contained in the onomasticon. Hence, toponymy, represented by the section of onomastics, is engaged in the study of geographical names, their meanings and functioning. Toponyms are proper names of any, from large to small, natural or artificially created by man objects on the territory of the Earth, constituting a culturally, socially and historically conditioned part of the vocabulary.

Being nominative signs, proper names have both external (in terms of expression) and internal (in terms of content) sides, in which the results of human cognition are displayed. The meaning of the toponym includes a complex set of linguistic and extralinguistic information. However, it is the extra-linguistic (encyclopedic) information behind the geographical names that is of linguoculturological significance.

The history of the nomination process dates back to the origin of the language. The name naming seems to be a complex, multi-stage phenomenon, in the process of which, as a result of cognition of reality, a word is created that functions according to general toponymic patterns. The first stage of the nomination when naming geographical objects can be considered the determination of the dominant motivational (content) feature that determines the motive for choosing the name and explains the reason for the emergence of the toponym. These signs may coincide in different countries, since such physical and geographical objects as mountains, villages, cities often lend themselves to nomination. At the same time, the principles of nomination according to natural geographical conditions and connection with a person can be considered as unified.

As a result of the nomination, a verbal sign appears - a word that has a perceptual function and is formed by its three components: denotation, form and meaning. The meaning of a word is represented by the relationship of name and meaning. Each name is structurally and socially motivated, therefore, only the material side of the sign can be considered a conditional component, while the ideal side reflects the objective world and the knowledge of the speakers.

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