

The Use Of Toponyms In Language

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Abstract: The article is devoted to the linguistic properties of proper names, gives a classification of toponyms by geopolitical, economic and socio-cultural values. The paper examined approaches to the definition of the term toponym, and also described the importance of toponymy for related sciences. The phenomena of variation of hyper- and macrotoponyms and their morphological modifications in the process of word formation are considered. Social factors, historical processes that cause changes in the structure of toponyms are also taken into account.

Keywords: toponym, toponymy, oronim, oikonim, hydronym, urbanonym, macrotoponym, microtoponym, anthropotonym.

Every day in writing and speech we use words denoting proper names, but few people know the term "toponym". Toponyms are linguistic signs denoting the names of topographic spaces. These signs form a system called toponymy. There are various interpretations of the word "toponym":

Podolskaya N.V. in the "Dictionary of Russian Onomastic Terminology" gives the following definition of this linguistic phenomenon:

“A toponym (geographical name) is the category of onyms, the proper name of any geographical object.[10, p.198]

In the explanatory dictionary of Ozhegov, the following definition is given: Toponym - "the proper name of a particular geographical location (settlement, river, land)" [14, 35639.htm]

Another, more detailed definition of this term was given by I.P. Litvin:

“A toponym is an individualizing element of a complete toponymic formula (the full toponymic formula includes a proper name and the accompanying geographical term (common name)), which clarifies what type of geographical objects this name refers to”[7, p.87]

In literature in the 1920s, later the term “toponomastics” appeared. This term has Greek origin topos “place, locality” and onoma “name”, i.e. "Referring to the name." This is a section of onomastics studying geographical names (toponyms), their meaning and origin, structure, development and change in time.

Toponyms study and subdivide geographical names according to certain signs: by language (Russian, English, Italian toponymy), by historical (Anglo-Saxon toponymic stratum, Celtic toponymic stratum, etc.), by territorial (toponymy of Russia, toponymy of the United States).

In linguistics, there are two classifications of toponyms:

1. by classes of designated geographical locations;
2. by structure.

The following varieties of toponyms exist: oronyms, oikonoms, hydronyms, urbanonyms, macrotoponyms, microtoponyms and also anthropotonyms.

Oronyms (from Greek oros - mountain) denote the names of mountains (the Grampians, Pennines). The names of small populated places form another group called oikonoms (from the Greek. Oikos - housing, refuge). These include the names of cities and villages (Five Oak Green, Earlswood).

The names of water resources, such as seas, lakes, rivers, canals are combined in a group called hydronyms. This group has a close relationship with the history, migration and ethnic past of the people of the world. The names of water resources are preserved and transmitted for centuries and millennia and do not change. Often, dialectics and archaisms are used in hydronyms, the words of peoples living in certain territories in the past.

Pelagonyms are distinguished - the names of the seas (the North Sea, the Irish Sea), limnonyms - the names of lakes, ponds (Loch Tummel, Loch Ney, Llyn Cerrig Bach), potonyms - the names of rivers (Severn, Thames, Great Ouse), helonyms - proper names swamps, wetlands (Lindow Moss).

Urbanonyms (from Lat. Urbanus - urban) are words that designate the names of objects located inside cities and villages, they are divided into subgroups: agoronyms (from Greek agora - area) - names of squares (Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus), hodonyms (from Greek hodos - path, road, street, riverbed) - street names (Baker Street, Lime Street, Whitehall) and dromonyms (from the Greek. dromos - running, movement, path) - names of communication lines (Fosse Way, Icknield Way, Broxden Roundabout).

Macrotoponyms (from the Greek. Makros - large) are the names of large geographical objects. These are proper names denoting the names of countries, regions or provinces. They can be derived from ethnonyms (Franks - France, Greeks - Greece) or vice versa an ethnonym can be derived from the name of a country (America - Americans, Australia - Australians).

Mikrotoponymy (from the Greek. Mikros - small) - words denoting small uninhabited geographical objects, such as streets, fields, meadows, etc., familiar to a limited circle of people living in the same area.

Very often, the names of geographical objects are formed from personal names, and in this case they are called anthropotonyms (from the Greek. Antropos - man). For example, city names: Ottery St Mary, St David's (Wales), Elizabethtown. In English, this type of place names is much less common than in Russian (Ivanovka, Alekseevo, Fedorovka).[13, p. 59-118]

According to morphological characteristics, toponyms are divided into 4 types:

- simple;
- derivatives;

- complex;
- compound.

Simple toponyms are words consisting only of the root word without suffixes and affixes. Many names have moved from other languages, and is recognized as a pure basis: Comb, Barrow, Down, Stall, Moor, etc.

Derived toponyms are words formed by adding affixes to the root of proper names: Stanton, Kingston, Birmingham, Scarborough, etc.

Complex place names are words consisting of two morphemes that are the basis of the place name: Wallingwells, Whitbarrow, Blackpool, Brentside, etc.

Compound place names are place names consisting of phrases of two or more parts of speech: Standing Stone, Cold Harbor, Barton under Needwood, Black Notley, etc.

From the above classification it follows that toponyms can be described by the type of what object it designates and by the morphological structure.

V.A. Zhuchkevich in his work “General Toponymy” offers several types of classifications, taking into account various aspects (according to language, morphology, etymology, historical and territorial characteristics, object categories and semantics). In the morphological classification, the author divides toponyms into simple and complex (compound) and complex are divided into the following groups:

1. Noun and noun.
 2. Adjective and noun.
 3. Numeral and noun.
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4. Idiomatic and other phrases.

5. Names-abbreviations.

6. Other formation.

In the etymological classification of V.A. Zhuchkevich distinguishes:

1. Toponyms of a completely clear semantic meaning.

2. Toponyms, the meaning of which is revealed as a result of etymological analysis.

3. Toponyms, the meaning of which it is impossible to decipher.

In geographical classification, the author identifies three aspects:

1. Territorial (toponyms of different countries).

2. Purely geographical (by category of geographical objects).

3. Semantic.

In the classification according to the semantic principle (according to the semantic meaning of the forming foundations), the names are divided into 8 groups: 1. Names that arose in connection with the natural conditions of the area. 2. Names that appeared on the basis of social and economic phenomena. 3. Names characterizing the features of the object (size, age, distinguishing features). 4. Patronomical names (by first names, surnames of people). 5. Transferred names (data by analogy with other toponyms). 6. Names of religious and religious significance. 7. The names are memorial. 8. Names that cannot be explained.[17, p.288]

Based on the undertaken research, it can be concluded that toponymy is an integral scientific discipline that arose at the junction of several sciences - linguistics, history and geography, which has complex interdisciplinary connections.

Until now a single classification has not been identified, because according to some researchers, the creation of a universal classification of multifaceted toponymic material seems unlikely or impossible.

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