

TOPONYMIC SYSTEM IN THE LINGUISTIC PICTURE OF THE WORLD

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DOI: **10.5958/2249-7137.2022.00476.1**

ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the study of the linguistic picture of the world through proper names - toponyms. It establishes a close connection of proper names with the culture, traditions and customs of the peoples to which they belong. The etymology and semantics of toponyms, their functions in linguistics, and their place in the history of the people are revealed. Toponyms reflect the development of mankind and are the result of centuries of folk art.

KEYWORDS: *Toponym, Proper Name, Linguistic Picture Of The World, Toponymic System, Onym, Culture, Ethnocultural Significance.*

INTRODUCTION

Each specific object has its own name, starting with the person and ending with the objects of nature. Therefore, the world in which we live from ancient times to the present day can be called the world of names. Any name has its own history of origin and culture that it reflects. Toponyms arose in primitive society, a person created them in order to distinguish one place from another. In a deep analysis of geographical names, it is possible to determine the historical periods, the events that took place at that time, the territorial integrity of the place where these names were distributed, the belonging of the peoples inhabiting this area to a certain ethnic group. In the process of development, toponyms changed in form, content and pronunciation, the reason for this was the constant conquests, migration of the population and ethnic contacts. Geographical names were formed during the long development of human knowledge, at the beginning of their formation, a person did not have a large vocabulary, so oceans, seas, lakes could be designated by one concept, for example, the word "river", but with the rapid development of society, these concepts began to delimit and give individual denominations. Toponyms are created by peoples under the influence of historical events, therefore, historical science is engaged in their analysis. Each name has its own history and acts as a cultural monument. It reflects the culture, economic activity, interethnic relations, historical and political changes, geographical features, and even the famous heroes of this ethnic group. Toponyms also reflect the natural and climatic features of the area they express. They reflect the diverse natural environment, its external form and internal structure, specific features, quality and quantity, and other properties of natural objects. Our main goal is to determine the sources of the most ancient toponyms, expressing both geographical objects and the names of nationalities.

Toponyms form their specific system on the territory of any region. There are a number of definitions of the concept of "toponymic system". As G.V. Glinskikh, noted: the term "toponymic system" carries all the names of each territory, considered separately or in combination with other territories, and the system is also considered as a set of certain types of toponyms, correlated according to some structural or semantic feature, "system relations between linguistic units, functioning in the language, are transferred to toponymic material, which is quite likely and natural, but are interpreted as specific connections that create a special, toponymic systemicity" [4, p.44]. The toponymic system is an expression of the components of the material and spiritual culture of various peoples. This is a valuable heritage of past generations, which bring historical events, components of spiritual culture and religious beliefs to us without changes, therefore, toponyms have a certain historical meaning. A feature of geographical names is the simultaneous definition and naming of objects of reality. Toponyms are formed under the influence of historical and social factors in the development of society, and connects two important concepts of "person" and "object". The socio-historical essence of the name and the anthropological orientation are the main concepts of toponymy, which allow you to explore the toponymy of both one and different systems. V.A. Nikonov supported the idea of the social nature of toponyms and wrote:

- 1) The history of society is reflected in toponymy not directly, but is refracted through the internal laws of the language, hence the variety of toponymic phenomena ;
- 2) Geographical names, like the language as a whole, serve the whole society, and not separate classes;
- 3) The toponymic type can survive the era that gave birth to it, while maintaining productivity” [8, p.75-105].

O.M. Karpova proposes to distinguish the following types of onyms:

- 1) Proper names that are similar in different cultures and languages; their similarity is explained by the same cultural source (for example, Alexandria - a city of Egypt, Alexandria - a city in the USA, Virginia, Alexandria - a city in the Kirovograd region);
- 2) Authentic, unique proper names belonging to only one culture (for example, Stratford - upon - Avon, the Rhine, lake Baikal). [5, p.19].

In these examples, cultural relatedness is expressed through a denotation, and not through a nomination. Some cultures call the same object by different names, which reflect the peculiarities of the national worldview, the structure of the language of the nominee, but the meaning of the named object does not change from this. The toponym is unique and has its own place in the culture, language of the people and in its history. For example, Tower Hill – is the toponym of the culture of Great Britain, refers to the square in London where the prisoners of the Tower were executed, starting from the 11th century, and the name of this public place is mentioned not only in historical sources, but in British works. Thus, this geographical name has historical significance and literary fame. The toponym Tower Hill has firmly entered the historical and socio-cultural context and acquires the status of a culturally connotated element that is close to non-equivalent forms and is not subject to exact and direct translation. It denotes not only the called object itself, but also what stands behind it. O.M. Karpova and O.V. Mizernaya gave other examples of proper names in a cultural aspect:

Bond Street is a famous street in London with fashionable and expensive shops. The sentence "He wore ties from Bond Street" has a double meaning.

The main meaning of this sentence is a very expensive tie, the address of the store is of secondary importance. This semantics will be incomprehensible without further comment. O.M. Karpova argued that the sphere of intertextual proper names is of particular difficulty, since they are culturally marked. These names appeared in literary works and gradually became part of the language and the property of the national literary context. Over time, well-known names and titles of literary works acquired a new nominative semantics, and we can easily identify this additional information.

When studying the toponyms of various cultures, we are faced with the concept of "linguistic picture of the world". The German philosopher Wilhelm von Humboldt was the first who examined this concept and determined that the language picture of the world is represented by the people, their spirit and ideological character. According to Asimov's dictionary, the linguistic picture of the world is a set of knowledge about the world around a person, imprinted in a linguistic form. The picture of the world as the central concept of the concept of man, expressing the specifics of his being, is a holistic global image of the world, which is the result of the entire spiritual life of man. The reflection of this world in the units of language and texts created with the help of language means forms a linguistic picture of the world. [2, 1]

Each nation sees the world in its own way, and this special vision reflects the national character of culture in the language. The speakers of each language form their own specific way of knowing the world, which adds up the meanings expressed in it into a single system of views. Through this system, their linguistic picture of the world is built.

Y.D. Apresyan argued that each language expresses its own picture of reality, which is closely connected with the historical past of this people, and the following principles are necessary for the concept of "linguistic picture of the world":

1. the linguistic picture of the world is more naive than scientific (a naive picture of the world reflects the ideas of an ordinary person about the reality with which he interacts, a scientific linguistic picture reflects professional research and theory);
2. each language reflects the reality of its people, which is different from the pictures of other ethnic groups. [1, p. 57]

When talking about a historical event, we do not describe it and do not give details, but simply name the place where this event took place. The geographical name of this place forms the basis of our allusion. The linguistic picture of the world is a set of ideas historically formed in the minds of the people, which are reflected in the language. Language acts as a connecting element between generations, it is a means of storing and transmitting collective experience.

All units of the language have the main, communicative function, which is more manifested in the field of vocabulary. Each toponym is based on a semantic meaning that reflects the historical events and processes that took place on the territory of a particular country. The problem of forming a toponymic picture of the world occupies an important place in modern linguistics. The toponym is characterized by ethnocultural significance and verbally expresses the historical, social and ethnocultural features of the people through the toponymic system.

The toponym acts as an identifier of a geographical object, while "the name itself pursues, ultimately, a description of the world, and not just a designation of everything that exists" [6: 327].

Toponyms are a reflection of the past and the present. The history of mankind is inextricably linked with geographical names, which are components of national culture. They preserve and transmit information about the life, economic structure, worldview of the people who lived in this culture. Geographical names have a complex semantic structure, giving a plexus of mythological, historical, cultural and social associations. V.V. Molchanovsky called a toponym a receptacle of knowledge about a country, a custodian and transformer of historical and cultural information about an ethnic group: "The national-cultural component of the semantics of toponyms is distinguished by a special regional representativeness, a wealth of cultural and historical associations"[7, p.5]

Many researchers have defined toponymy as the only language system, part of the cultural life of the people, its worldview, world perception and world-construction. Behind each geographical name is a real or fictional, historical or living reality, which, through non-linguistic factors, forms a circle of various associations. [10, p.70].

G.D. Tomakhin, studies toponyms as an inseparable part of the accompanying information of native speakers of a given language. Background knowledge, first of all, implies universal knowledge, regional data and the information that all members of a particular ethnic and linguistic community own. "Socially important toponyms related to the realities of a certain ethnic group, for the most part, are characterized by the fullness of national and cultural meanings and connotations of the historical and social aspect" [9, p.20-22]

Toponyms differ from each other by territorial affiliation. These names are able to convey important information of an extralinguistic nature, at the same time, this information is hidden for those who do not have background knowledge that is concentrated in onomastic vocabulary. The figurative nomination contained in the toponym "is always nationally specific in the sense that it consolidates the picture of the world historically formed in the minds of the people - the subject of the nomination" [3, p. 218]. Background knowledge is formed in the process of a long historical and cultural development of peoples and is passed on from generation to generation. Toponyms have existed for quite a long time, even if they become obsolete and fall into disuse, they will remain relevant throughout the history of the people. They, as monuments of material culture, have been preserved for centuries. They convey valuable information about the ethnic history of peoples, language, writing, territory.

Thus, geographical names are a kind of monuments of the spiritual culture of a certain ethnic group. Toponyms create a historical and cultural image of the country and act as landmarks in time and space. Toponyms reflect the development of mankind and are the result of centuries of folk art.

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