



Linguistic Status of Toponyms in Scientific Literature Analysis

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Article History	Abstract
Received: 06 June 2023 Revised: 05 Sept 2023 Accepted: 14 Dec 2023	<p><i>This article deals with toponymy and researches about definition which indicates the actual linguistic characteristics of the toponym as a linguistic unit. syntagmatic approach and integrated approach are widely explained with examples in the article. Linguists' opinions are given adequately in order to show scientific and theoretical aspects of the article. It is chosen as the basis of the study a complex definition of a toponym, which indicates all its characteristics both the complexity of the internal semantic structure and the expressed extralinguistic characteristics. This article play an important role for researchers, bachelor's and masters' student and teachers for their educational field..</i></p>
CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0	<p>Keywords: <i>Toponymy, Complexity, Extralinguistic, Internal Semantics, Linguistic Unit, Dictionary, Synchronic Aspects</i></p>

1. Introduction

At the initial, ascertaining stage of our research, we must determine the scope and boundaries of the term "toponym" in order to operate with it in the course of our scientific research. Usually, researchers and lexicographers adhere to uniformity in the definition of this linguistic concept, and its definition in reference books and literature has not changed since the middle of the 20th century, which indicates the stability and unambiguity of the term in general Russian linguistic terminology. For the first time this term appeared in 1899 in English as a scientific full-equivalent synonym for the usual phrase "place name" and was introduced by Russian scientists as a tracing paper with similar semantics.

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Experts say that toponymics and toponymy should be distinguished from each other. A toponym is a collection of geographical names in a specific area. So, if the toponym is the object of study of the science of toponymics. Toponym is the subject of his research. Complexity is inherent in the nature of toponymy, as the science develops, this feature becomes more obvious.

So, in the dictionary edited by Ojegov S. I. (the first edition of which was in 1949) we find the following definition: "Toponym, proper name - the name of a geographical object (city, river, lake, mountain, tract, etc.). p.)".

Almost unchanged, this definition is also given in the "Modern Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language" edited by T. F. Efremova: "Toponym is the proper name of a geographical object (river, settlement, etc.)".

However, these definitions are not able to fully characterize the complexity of the semantic structure of toponyms and their position in the system of the Russian language. Some researchers (O. Jespersen, A.A. Potebnya and a number of others), who dealt with the problems of toponymy at the beginning of the 20th century, put forward in their works the position that toponyms have their own lexical meaning, while others - A.A. Reformatsky, OS Akhmanova - denied this provision, saying that toponyms act simply as pointers, identifiers of a certain geographical unit, drawing an analogy with pronouns and interjections. For example, the toponym Nalchik will only be an indicator of a specific physical.

territorial unit, and this lexical meaning will be inherent in it in the same way as in any other toponyms such as Akhyn, Maikop, and so on.

Summarizing various approaches to the analysis of the internal semantics of toponyms as proper names, we can reduce them to three varieties. So, according to the first approach, called the paradigmatic one, researchers recognize the ability of toponyms to have a denotative meaning and deny the presence of a signifiant, the ability to express a concept, in it. Therefore, in the linguistic tradition, the perception of toponyms as "semantically flawed", "lexically defective" was entrenched.

According to the syntagmatic approach, in which the toponym is considered in the language system, in addition to the denotation, it also expresses the sum of all the properties and features of the object that they characterize, that is, all the extralinguistic information perceived by the speaker in this linguistic unit. According to the researcher N. I. Tolstoy, expressed in the work "Slavic Lexicology and Semasiology", "... a toponym is a code sign of a specific geographical object, and its "content" is the sum of knowledge about the properties of this object (but not the sum of semantic features), according to perceived differently by different people. One can speak about the semantics of a proper name only to the extent that the toponym is connected (etymologically, etc.) with a common noun.

Followers of an integrated approach, for example, I.R. Galperin, A.V. Superanskaya and others hold the view that toponyms, being at the same time a unit of both language and speech, express a specific meaning arising from the ratio of denotative and connotative elements. Toponyms, in this case, are associated with objects much more strongly than common nouns, and their referential meaning, which is aimed at identifying the object, is in relationship with the predicate that characterizes the object. Therefore, our study should be based on a complex definition of a toponym, indicating both its internal semantic structure and expressed extralinguistic characteristics.

3. Results and Discussion

For example, in the Encyclopedic Dictionary of Linguistic Terms and Concepts, edited by A. N. Tikhonov, one can find the following definition of the concept we are studying:

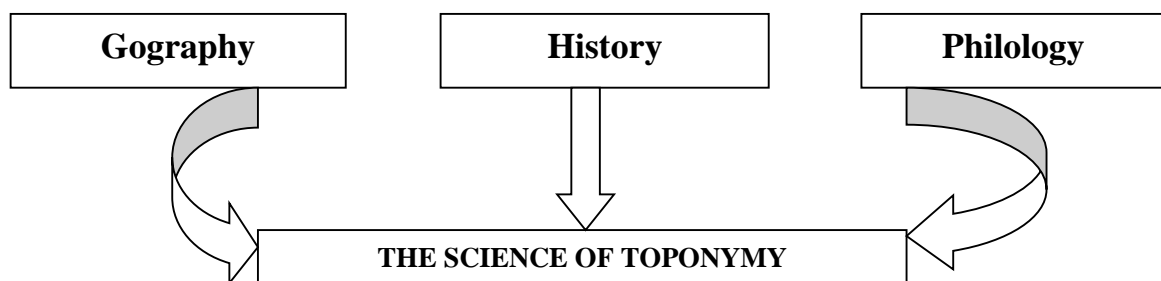
"Toponym (Greek topos "place" + onyma "name") is a word or a short phrase used to name a geographical object, used as a proper name, taking into account the language, writing and traditions of a particular people".

This definition indicates the actual linguistic characteristics of the toponym as a linguistic unit - a word or a short phrase, its denotative meaning - the names of a geographical object and extralinguistic parameters indicating its cultural relevance.

Toponymy is defined in the same dictionary as: "A section of onomastics, a science that studies geographical names, investigates the origin, structure, semantics, functioning, evolution, distribution area of geographical names: a set of geographical names of any territory, state, continent: toponymy of Siberia, study toponymy of Ukraine, toponymy of Europe. These definitions will be used in this scientific study in the future.

It can be seen in the diagram below that toponymy arose at the intersection of the interests of geography, history and philology, and that it is a complex science.

this scientific study in the future.



Therefore, philologist and onomologist T. Nafasov concluded that "geography is the prelude and midwife of toponymy.

First of all, after analyzing the theoretical works on the specifics of the semantics of toponyms and the content of the concept of "toponym", it is noteworthy that toponyms in the Russian linguistic system occupy a special place, which distinguishes them not only from common nouns, but also from other structural and semantic ones. categories of proper names. A. V. Brunov emphasizes this property of toponyms, saying that they are "a special type of artificially created words-names that function according to their own model within a common relatively closed system of conventional signs" . Toponyms are the fact of the language, which is present as a certain lexical layer in all languages of

the world. They differ from other lexical groups not only in semantic, but also in spelling, morphonological, grammatical, word-formation and stylistic features, in addition to their common properties with other names - "the name of a single object, isolated from a number of homogeneous ones", as well as untranslatability into other languages.

It is necessary to emphasize the following structural feature of toponyms: in contrast to anthroponyms (from other Greek - person and name - a single proper name or a set of proper names that identify a person)¹³, toponyms have parallel morphological forms - short and detailed; short forms are conventional and semantically unmotivated, that is, based on their components, it is impossible to explain their private and whole meaning, and also to trace the etymology, for example, Nalchik, Kavkaz, Chugush. Expanded forms include common nouns - city, sea, lake, republic, northern, southern, and so on, verbalizing objects that name toponyms. In some cases, toponyms that are complex in structure and number of elements include common lexemes, for example, Psekups or Azish-Tau, whose components can be motivated as "river of pseks" and "iron mountain", respectively. Some components can be desemantized as part of a toponym and remain only in compound toponyms like the Russian Federation, the North Caucasian Federal District.

Toponyms, being a significant layer of Russian vocabulary, become the starting point for productive word-formation models, for example,

formation of adjectives: Moscow - Moscow, Caucasus - Caucasian, Nalchik, Chegem, Terek), as well as in the basis of the substantiation of formed adjectives denoting "a group of people by place of residence" (Nalchanin, Baksan, Tyrnyauzka), "ethnicity", "ethnonyms" (Kabardian, Balkar, Circassian), "state affiliation" (Russian, German, American); toponyms underlie word-formation nests by type: Caucasus - Caucasian / th - Caucasian - Ciscaucasia - Transcaucasia - Caucasian studies / Vedic - Vladikavkaz - Kavminvody (Caucasian mineral waters) - Caucasianisms - Caucasians - anti / counter-Caucasian and so on. The largest number of word formations appears at the base of those toponyms that have the most significant extralinguistic status, in cities that play an important economic and cultural role in the life of society (interesting in this case are formations such as caucasoid, caucasian, caucasian, indicating the significance of the Caucasus not so much as territory, but as a socio-social phenomenon). The smallest number of word formations is associated with the names of small settlements.

Here it should be noted the linguistic analysis of toponyms in diachronic and synchronic aspects, since toponyms, like the entire vocabulary of the Russian language, can become outdated and updated, that is, form their own "historicisms" and include "neologisms". Toponyms, according to A.V. Superanskaya, are a number of continuously changing types, and the adjacent semantic fields of toponyms are very close to each other: for example, the toponym Moscow, etymologically associated with the names of rivers, not cities, gets motivation only when compared with hydronyms. To explain the beginning of the derivational series, one should take into account a number of actually extralinguistic factors, such as the variety of the actual object of the name, the time of the appearance of one or another toponym, the territory to which it belonged. Toponyms become obsolete for two reasons:

- 1) the dialect names of this or that object are being replaced by the literary language;
- 2) they "migrate" following the resettlement of people who designate new territories with old names or leave old designation words behind.

Based on such a structural interlingual category of toponyms as "untranslatable", one can logically conclude that, being correctly and accurately perceived in only one linguistic system, toponyms acquire a number of specific cultural, national features that firmly fix a number of associations and connections in the linguistic picture the world of man. Since "Each geographical name is formed according to the laws of the language to which it belongs", the study of toponymy is a promising channel for studying intercultural relations and the inner linguistic reality of a person.

Under the linguistic picture of the world, we mean "mental-lingual education, information about the surrounding reality, imprinted in the individual or collective consciousness and represented by means of language." Toponyms, along with other proper names, make up a significant part of the linguistic picture of the world of a Russian person, but they occupy a very special position, as they represent the idea of a native speaker about the Motherland, about the country in which he lives, about the concepts associated with one or another geographical name. It can be said that how complete and rich the toponymy of an individual native speaker is, so wide is his historical, cultural, and not only geographical, knowledge. Consequently, toponyms are more carriers of the linguocultural component,

and in our study we will consider this aspect in connection with the teaching of the Russian language at school.

From the point of view of I. S. Karabulatova, the term "toponym" must always be considered from two aspects: cognitive-linguistic, according to which a toponym is understood as a product of mental processes that are aimed at understanding the essence of a particular geographical object, and which reflects the traces of cognitive processes, representing the given object of reality in the ideal version; and culturological, considering toponyms as a culturological code in which information axiologically significant for the carrier is encoded.

Thus, the field of toponymy research is very diverse and receives coverage in a number of scientific areas: linguistics with the previously identified approaches to determining the linguistic status of toponyms and their place in the corpus of vocabulary; linguoculturology, which explores the linguoculturological potential of toponyms and the possibility of translating cultural codes and associations through them, as well as the features of including these linguistic units in the methodology of teaching the language in secondary schools; geographical approach, which is aimed at etymological research and tracking the relationship of the toponym with a real physical object; historical, associated with clarifying the boundaries and scope of the content of a particular toponym, describing it in synchronic and diachronic aspects. V. A. Nikonov in the manual "Introduction to Toponymy" indicates that the geographical aspect of the toponym will be its analysis as a way of spatial orientation, and the historical aspect - the perception as a certain segment of history expressed by means of language.

In the research work "The main directions of toponymic research", the scientist E. M. Murzaev suggested that only the combination of these approaches with their special tools and development history can provide a complete picture of the toponymy of the country and a separate administrative unit, as well as their fixation in linguistic picture of the world of a native speaker. Modern researchers agree that the main task at the moment is to study new factual material, comprehend the dynamic processes in toponymic systems, as well as comprehend the prospects for pragmatolinguistic research that would deal with extralinguistic aspects of the study of toponyms and the productivity of their use within the framework of the methodology of teaching the Russian language in school.

A.M. Selishchev in his work "From Old and New Toponymy" supplements and expands these groups, transferring them from the field of hydronyms to the entire class of toponyms according to the following criteria: the origin of names from the names or nicknames of people; name from professions or occupation; name according to social status, position in society; names derived from the names of administration and power; names derived from ethnonyms and national characteristics of the inhabitants; describing the specifics of the local landscape, features of the settlement; derived from an abstract name.

4. Conclusion

The results of our analysis allow us to draw some particular conclusions that are of interest for our study: The linguistic status of toponyms in the system of the language has long been approved and reflected in a number of research and lexicographic sources, however, despite this, there are a number of different approaches to understanding the structure of the semantics of these linguistic units; We chose as the basis of the study a complex definition of a toponym, which indicates all its characteristics: both the complexity of the internal semantic structure and the expressed extralinguistic characteristics;

Toponyms differ from other lexical groups in the whole complex of linguistic parameters (spelling appearance, word-formation parameters, grammar), have a sign of untranslatability, and the linguistic picture of the world of a native speaker of the Russian language is included as an exponent of national and cultural constants - ideas about the country, homeland, history, and also self-identification and identification with ethnic, national, social groups;

Toponyms reflect all the lexical patterns of a given level of the Russian language and are a productive material for the formation of students' language competence.

There is a variety of research approaches that determine both the directions of development of this linguistic phenomenon and the tools on the basis of which the analysis is carried out, as well as the criteria for classification developments. Due to the fact that toponyms are a source of historical, cultural, linguo-cultural and geographical information, they should be considered as a lexical system that contains all the conditions for the formation of an epistemological impulse in students when studying it in Russian language lessons.

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