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PRINCIPLES OF TOPONYMS CLASSIFICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The article illustrates on the principles of toponyms as well as it includes some methods of descriptive and semantic analysis of toponyms. Moreover, it is given various types of toponyms and features of them.

Keywords: toponym, toponymic conceptual semantics, verbalizers, geographical source, psychological source, toponym types

INTRODUCTION

Toponyms are one of the main linguistic and cultural-spiritual wealth of all the nations which they have their own history of the toponyms which was created over many centuries. Toponyms reflect the unique observations, experiences, worldviews and various beliefs of the people from the ancient times to the present day. Toponymy is the study of "*toponyms"* that are proper names of places, also known as "*place name"* or "*geographic name"*, their origins and meanings, use and typology. In a more specific sense, the term "*toponymy"* refers to an inventory of toponyms, while the discipline researching such names is referred to as '*toponymics"* or "*toponomastics"*. Toponymy is a branch of onomastics which is the study of proper names of all kinds. Toponym is the general term for a proper name of any geographical feature, and full scope of the term also includes proper names of all cosmographical features. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word "toponymy" first appeared in English in 1876. Since then, the word "toponym" has come to replace the term "place-name" in professional discourse among geographers. Furthermore, according to Merriam Webster Dictionary toponymy is the place-names of a region or language or especially the etymological study of them.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Any kind of geographical object has both a geographic term, which determines its type, and a geographical name; therefore, a topographic object is "named twice", enriching the semantics of a toponym. Methodology includes the methods of

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descriptive analysis, which consists in collecting and systematizing the collected facts, in their logical comprehension and identification of specific patterns. Taxonomic method as a variant of the descriptive method is used for the categorization of toponymic units into certain logical classes and subclasses. In some cases the method of quantitative analysis was used. It revealed quantitative relationships between different categories of place names; it also discovers the main mechanism of the development of toponymic systems of different territorial variants of the English language.

At the moment a name is given to an object, the language of the name-giver provides both the elements needed and the structure to join them together. The elements consist of semantic and morphologic units – units of meaning and form - called *words* and *morphemes*. The former are the smallest units that may occur independently, the latter the even smaller particles, like suffixes and affixes forming part of or joined to them. The structure is provided that in the form of a set of rules called *grammar*, that defines the way the language can be used to convey (*communicate*) meaning. An important constituent of grammar is the *syntax*, determining the way words should be linked together into larger semantic conglomerates. Most names start their existence as such a semantic conglomerate.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

One of the main disadvantages of classification schemes of toponyms is the impossibility to "fit all the variety of geographical names into the Procrustean bed of one classification" (Murzaev, 1996: 115). However, some linguists tried to classify toponyms combining different principles simultaneously. We can mention as the first researchers to classify place names in any systematic manner was George R. Stewart who was one of the leader scientists to research toponymy. In 1954, he published an article in *Names* entitled "A classification of place names". His typology based on the “naming-process” recognizes ten main toponym types:

1) *descriptive names and compass-point names* (names that describe and characterize the object's quality or its location;

2) *associative names* (names that evoke associations with different objects);

3) *incident names* (names from an event associated with a person, G. Stewart also refers to this group acts of God, calendar names, animal names, names of human actions, names from feelings, names from sayings);

4) *possessive names* (names originated from some idea of ownership);

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5) *commemorative names* (names given in memory or in honor of outstanding people and names for abstract virtues);

6) *commendatory names* (names given by some attractive peculiarities of a geographical object);

7) *folk etymologies* (names with false etymology);

8) *manufactured names* (names which have been consciously constructed of fragments of other words, or names from initials, by reversals of letters or syllables, or in other ways);

9) *mistake names* (names appeared from a mistake made in the transmission from one language to another, either from inaccurate hearing of what was said, or because of faulty rendering of the sounds in writing);

10) *shift names* (names which have been moved from one location to another)

A mixture of lexical, grammatical and semantic principles is considered as the disadvantage rather than the advantage of such classifications. The scientific approach assumes that the set is divided into subsets as many times as many principles of division there are, meanwhile the divided subset can also be subdivided. It is obvious that it is impossible to create a unified classification of place names, which would reflect the entire multidimensional nature of the toponymic vocabulary. Classifying toponymic nominations, one must consider the multifaceted (intra- and extra-linguistic) principles of allocation of toponymic units, such as: 1) parametric characteristics of an object, 2) ontological characteristics of an object, 3) type of toponymic basis, 4) etymological characteristics of place names, 5) motivational characteristics of place names, 6) chronological characteristics of place names, 7) structural characteristics of toponyms, 8) toponymic polysemy, 9) degree of toponymic nomination, 10) variety of toponymic nomination, 11) localization of an object.

CONCLUSION

To sum up all given ideas, it can be mentioned that toponyms are one of the greatest linguistic and cultural-spiritual wealth of all the countries which was created over the centuries by humanity.

Based on the results of the study, we can make the following conclusions:

a. toponyms can represent one or more toponymic layers.

b. “toponymical conceptual semantics” can also change depending on the type of objects associated with our knowledge of the world.

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c. although the structural aspects of the toponyms studied in English or Uzbek, they are different, in each language they are united by a common cognitive-conceptual semantic factor, which is the universal conceptual semantics, "toponymic conceptual semantics" that forms their lingua cognitive basis.

d. "toponymical conceptual semantics" in English, as in all languages, has its own means of expression, events, verbalizers, because in concrete languages without these verbalizers it is natural that the full communication in appropriate situations will not take place, and each language has its own function as an important and complete means of communication. Such verbalizers must be present in the system of its structure (or rather in its reserve) while striving for full performance, even though they exist.

e. toponyms (toponymemes) are cultural, geographical, linguistic, historical and psychological sources of peoples based on their culture, customs, way of life and place, language and history (toponymemes can be referred as cultural, geographical, linguistic, historical and psychological sources). As they can show people's culture and traditions, their inhabitants, language and history).

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