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LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES OF TOPONYMS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

Summary. The article considers various variants of the definition of the term "toponym", and also emphasizes the place of toponymy among related sciences. The issue of classification of toponyms is considered separately. It is noted that in the process of historical development, toponymic nominations can undergo various phonetic, morphological, lexical and semantic transformations. The linguistic activity of the toponymic vocabulary is manifested in its derivational potential, as well as in the presence of toponymic nicknames.

The toponymic vocabulary should not be separated from the general vocabulary, which is characterized by many features that are characteristic of common names. Like general vocabulary, toponymy is characterized by the process of semantic variation (polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, hyperonymy, paronymy); word formations (different methods of derivation); the important derivation of the linguistic sign (the internal form of the toponym and different types of motivation: morphological and semantic); pragmatic aspect (emotionality, imagery, evaluability); figurative meaning (metaphor, metonymy). Like all vocabulary in general, toponymic vocabulary is subject to the law of economy of lexical means, which is manifested in the simplification of toponymic structures, in the predominance of one-word toponyms, and in the tendency to shorten toponyms in colloquial speech.

The structure of the meaning of a toponym does not fundamentally differ from the structure of the meaning of a nominal name, including denotative, significant and connotative components. The difference is related to the poorer extension of the semantic components and the wider intentionality of the toponym.

The toponymic system of the English language is characterized by: a) anthropocentricity, manifested in the corresponding method of nomination, which is one of the most productive; b) androcentricity, manifested in the dominance of the masculine gender.

The word-forming activity of toponyms reveals a close connection with the social significance of the denotations of toponyms. Toponymic nicknames are variants of toponyms due to functional, emotional and social load. They reflect language universality, which is associated with synonymy as a result of semantic attrition and with the manifestation of language creativity.

Characterized by a significant degree of variation within a certain territorial variant, toponyms form an integral complex of structural-semantic connections that distinguish them from similar complexes in other territorial variants and languages. Therefore, despite the similarity of general features, the English toponymy of each territorial variant has its own specificity (etymological, chronological, motivational, structural, word-forming, cultural).

Key words: toponym, evaluative expression, proper name, geographical name, communication.

Formulation of the problem. In the modern world, interest in learning English as a language of international communication is growing, and toponyms are of great value for study, because they are a reflection of the history and culture of the people Famous geographer V.A. Zhuchkevich emphasized: "It is impossible to imagine the life of modern society without geographical names. They always accompany our thinking from early childhood. Everything on earth has its address, this address begins with the place of birth of a person. Home village, street, city, country – everything has its own name. Daily reading of newspapers, classical literature, studying the history of culture and the development of science create new phenomena, at the same time, the stock of geographical names in our language expands" [1, p. 18].

The relevance of research. The problem of analyzing toponyms of the English language, as a special phenomenon in linguistics, is relevant today.

Toponyms of the English language are the **object** of research.

The subject of the research is topical toponyms in modern English.

The aim of the research is to analyze the semantic features of toponyms of the English language.

Analysis of research and publications. The study of toponymy of the English language is devoted to the works of many foreign and domestic researchers: O.S. Akhmanova, V.D. Bilenkoi, I.A. Danchinova, O.K. Denisova, O.A. Leonovicha, G.D. Tomakhin, G. Bradley, T. Codrington, A. Mauer, A. Smith, and others.

Main material. Considering the object of research of this work, it is necessary, first of all, to give a definition of the term "toponym". Yes, N.V. Podilska gives the following definition of such a linguistic phenomenon: "A toponym (geographic name, geographical name) is a class of homonyms, the proper name of any geographical object" [2, p. 132]. According to the definition of S.I. Ozhegova, toponym – "proper name of a separate geographical place (settlement, river, land)" [3]. The most extensive definition of a toponym from the point of view of linguistics is given by I.P. Lytvyn, who believes that this concept characterizes "the individualizing element of a complete toponymic formula (a complete toponymic formula includes a proper name and its accompanying geographical term, which clarifies to which type of geographical objects a certain name belongs)" [4, p. 68]. The above definitions are similar, different authors only make some additional comments that expand this concept from different points of view. Thus, there is a single opinion on

this issue in the scientific literature. As a linguistic category, a toponym is studied by linguists as a linguistic unit that performs certain functions.

The main and main meaning and purpose of a geographical name is to fix a place on the Earth's surface [5, c. 4]. The study of this section of the vocabulary is carried out by toponymics, which studies geographical names, their origin, semantic meaning, development, current state, spelling and pronunciation. Toponymy is an integral scientific discipline that is at the intersection of three fields of knowledge: geography, history, and linguistics [5]. A similar point of view regarding toponymy is expressed by O.A. Leonovych: "Toponymy is a frontier scientific discipline that arose and is developing at the intersection of several sciences: linguistics, history, and geography" [2, p. 62].

V.A. Nikonov considers toponyms to be invaluable for history, as geographical names belonging to different historical eras can be found on the same territory. Their attachment to the place allows to restore the ancient language of this territory and mark the limits of its distribution [5, p. 11].

V.D. Bilenka considers toponymy to be an interdisciplinary field of linguistic research and believes that history and geography, along with linguistics, play a significant role in its development. "The study of toponyms, as part of the vocabulary of the language, their semantics, structure, functions, that is, everything that is characteristic of them as linguistic units, should be directly related to the study of the history of a given people and the geography of the territory" [4, p. 9]. Toponyms are endowed with paradigmatic and syntagmatic characteristics characteristic of each word.

A great scientific and practical contribution to the study of toponyms was made by V.A. Zhuchkevich, who emphasized that names are necessary for cartography, and the spelling of geographical names is subject to the laws of toponymy, and names are additional sources of knowledge for geographers and historians [3, c. 3].

Thus, having analyzed and compared the information about the place experts give to toponymy as a branch of science, we can state that toponymy is important for studying such disciplines as geography and cartography. Performing their main function – fixing a place on the surface of the earth, geographical names are the most important element of a map. Geographical names contain important material for the study of natural landscapes, the nature of economic activity of the population and ethnicity, natural features of a particular region, etc.

Toponyms, being part of the vocabulary of the language, are subject to certain linguistic regularities and are part of linguistics. At the current stage, the linguistic aspect is a priority. To carry out fruitful toponymic research, it is necessary to use the methods and achievements of all three sciences. The division of methods in the field of toponymic research should take place as follows: the geographical method ensures the search for information; linguistic method is responsible for analysis and interpretation; and the historical method, in turn, helps the researcher interpret information in a historical context [5, p. 16]. Thus, all three disciplines, which are the basis of toponymy, are involved. Thus, such a numerous, multifaceted part of the vocabulary as toponyms cannot be considered from one point of view, but requires a complex approach to research.

Linguistics distinguishes three levels of meaning of geographical names: pre-toponymic (etymological meanings of the words that make up the basis of the name), toponymic (specific and unambiguous designation of the object), post-toponymic (associations and connotations that arise when the name is used in communication). V.A. Nikonov believes that there can be only one pre-toponymic meaning, and toponymic meanings are unlimited in number. [2, c. 62].

V.A. Nikonov singles out three functions of the meanings of toponyms: 1. The direct (nominative) function of a toponym is to serve as an address. Some names not only indicate the object, but also describe it. 2) The descriptive (descriptive) function is not mandatory and is carried out until the etymological meaning is lost or it does not come into conflict with the changing features of the object. 3) The ideological function can be divided into pre-toponymic (etymological meaning) and otoponymic meaning [4, c. 63].

Within the scope of our study, it is appropriate to consider the main toponym classifications proposed by American scientists for the study and systematization of toponyms of the United States of America.

One of the first variants of toponymic classification was proposed by H. Mencken. The researcher believes that all geographical names can be divided into eight classes:

– Class 1 includes names, by their origin, related to proper names: Washington, Lafayette. The same class also includes various complex names consisting of combinations of a proper name with a geographical term or toponym-forming suffix: Pittsburgh, Knoxville, Hagerstown, FortRiley.

– Class 2 unites the transfer names of other states and regions of the country: New Albany, NewYork, New Windsor, Yorktown, etc., that is, these are toponyms formed from other, previously used, by adding elements such as -new (new), -west (western), – north (northern), etc., as well as various geographical terms or toponym-forming suffixes. According to H. Menken, direct transfers of names from other countries and states also belong to this class: Baltimore (the name of a glacier in Alaska), Princeton (the name of a peak in the state of Colorado), numerous names such as Rome, Alexandria, Troy, Sparta, Warsaw etc.

Class 3 includes all Indian names found on the territory of the United States: Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, etc.

Class 4 combines names of Spanish, French, Dutch, German and Scandinavian origin, that is, all non-English names except Native American ones.

Class 5 includes names that were created from biblical images and concepts: Conception, Beulah, Canaan, Jordan, Sharon, Adam, etc.

Class 6 includes descriptive names: Bald Knob, Sandy Hook, Bull Run, French Lick, Eagle Pass, etc.

Class 7 contains names reflecting the rich animal and plant life of the country: Buffalo, Alligator, RatLake, Crawfish, OilCity, Bromide, Goldfield, CoalRun, Cement, etc.

Class 8 combined all sorts of fancy, exotic names such as: Hell-for-Sartains, Undershirt Hills, Razzle-Dazzle, Cow Tail, Yellow Dog, Jump Off, Poker City, Goose Hill, Skunktown, Pig Eye Lake, Hot Coffee, Burning Bear, etc.

Having studied the importance of the study and features of the classification of toponyms, let's consider their morphological properties on the examples of evaluative expressions

According to the participation of the toponym in the evaluation situation, we distinguish cases where the toponym itself is the object of evaluation, and cases where a certain other object is evaluated through the toponym. We will call the first option "toponym –

direct participant", and the second option – "toponym – indirect participant", and, accordingly, we will talk about direct and indirect assessment.

Let's consider examples of direct assessment. The nature of the evaluation depends on the type and means of expression of the evaluative predicate, which is combined with the toponym. The collision of two opposing opinions leads to a two-vector structure of evaluation: Here are examples of direct indirect evaluation: "Why, my goodness: Janny!" she cried. She always pronounced his name, John, to rhyme with Ann. Earlier that vacation, she had visited in New York City, and tried to talk the way she thought they talked there" [6, p. 1].

So, in the given example, a positive assessment of the city of New York is emphasized.

Another type of direct evaluation of a toponym contains the comparison of objects with the value better / worse or similarity (like, as). Assessment can be both direct and indirect. Let's consider examples: "I'm told it's like fairy-land, there's no other word for it" [6, p. 20].

In the given example, there is a direct comparative indirect impersonal assessment with an attitude towards validity.

With the indirect participation of the toponym in the evaluation situation, as a rule, the character receives a characteristic through the toponym associated with it. The toponym in these cases is used mainly in a locative sense, but at the same time acquires an evaluative connotation. This is a variant of absolute indirect interpersonal assessment with an attitude towards any person. Let's consider examples: "I was brought up in America but educated at Oxford, because all my ancestors have been educated there for many years ... After that I lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe – Paris, Venice, Rome – collecting jewels, mainly rubies, hunting big game, painting a little" [6, p. 68].

In the given example, the hero of the novel "The Great Gatsby", exaggerating his social status, refers to the prestigious university he allegedly graduated from, as well as numerous trips to famous European cities. The example characteristically reflects an absolute indirect interpersonal assessment with a focus on the speaker.

Among the examples of indirect assessment, along with absolute, there are also examples of comparative assessment: "Divided, separated, shut off – black people kept away from everybody else! I go to Fisk; the boys I went to school with, go to Harvard ... I sleep in the garage, you sleep in the house" [6, p. 52].

In the given example, a young African-American man gives a response to his white benefactor, while comparing two toponyms – the names of educational institutions. The locative value acquires an additional indirect evaluative characteristic – negative in the first case, and positive in the second one.

Let's give another example of a comparative indirect assessment, where the American stereotype of false masculinity is contrasted with the European norms of male-father behavior: "Why should not the American father kiss the American son, when it's done in Italy, in Russia, in France?" [6, p. 13].

In the classic work of I. Ilf and E. Petrov, an action predicate is used – an imperative verb. The combination of a toponym with a verb in the imperative form gives the statement a positive tone, for example: "Arnold, I think we'd better go home, back to America" [6, p. 51]. The given example, like the previous one, can be considered as an indirect indirect management assessment. In a milder form, joint action is proposed, a return to America, which the speaker views as positive.

Thus, in the second group of examples, the main role belongs to the variant where, by means of the use of a toponym in its own locative meaning, an evaluation-characteristic is given to the character. At the same time, the speaker often resorts to social stereotypes.

Conclusion. Based on the conducted research, it can be concluded that toponymy is an integral scientific discipline that arose at the intersection of several sciences – linguistics, history and geography, which have a complex interdisciplinary connection. Special attention is paid to classifications of toponyms. Until now, no single classification has been found. All cases of participation of toponyms in the situations discussed are divided into two groups: 1) When the object of evaluation is the toponym itself (direct participation) and 2) when another object is evaluated through the toponym (indirect participation). The first group is characterized by a sharp advantage of direct assessment over indirect assessment using static predicates and the reflexive nature of assessment with a large share of subjectivity. Evaluative and locative signs play an equally important role in this group. The second group, the group of indirect assessment, is distinguished by an indirect predicate associated with a toponym. The priority in it is the locative meaning of the toponym, and the assessment plays an additional role. A perspective for further research is an in-depth study of the morphological and lexical features of toponyms of the English language.

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Сєчка С. В. Лексико-семантичні особливості топомонімів англійської мови: граматична структура та функції

Анотація. У статті розглянуто різні варіанти визначення терміну «топонім», а також підкреслено місце топоніміки серед суміжних наук. Окремо розглянуто питання класифікації топонімів. Зазначено, що у процесі історичного розвитку топонімічні номінації можуть піддаватися різним фонетичним, морфологічним, лексичним та семантичним трансформаціям. Лінгвістична активність топонімічної лексики проявляється у її дериваційному потенціалі, а також у наявності топонімічних прізвиськ.

Топонімічну лексику не варто відокремлювати від загальної лексики, яка характеризується багатьма ознаками, які властиві загальним іменам. Як і загальна

лексика, топоніміка характеризується процесом семантичного варіювання (полісемія, синонімія, антонімія, гіперонімія, паронімія); словотвори (різні способи деривації); важливою похідністю мовного знаку (внутрішня форма топоніму та різні типи мотивованості: морфологічна та семантична); прагматичним аспектом (емоційність, образність, оцінка); переносним значенням (метафора, метонімія). Як і вся лексика взагалі, топонімічна лексика підпорядковується закону економії лексичних засобів, який проявляється у спрощенні топонімічних структур, у переважанні однослівних топонімів та у тенденції до скорочення топонімів у розмовній мові.

Структура значення топоніму принципово не відрізняється від структури значення номінального імені, включаючи денотативний, сигніфікативний і конотативний компоненти. Відмінність пов'язана з біднішим екстенсіоналом семантичних компонентів та ширшим інтенсіоналом топоніму.

Топонімічна система англійської мови характеризується: антропоцентричністю, що проявляється у відповідному способі номінації, яка є одним із найпродуктивніших; андроцентричністю, що проявляється в домінуванні маскуллінного гендера.

Словотворна активність топонімів виявляє тісний зв'язок із соціальною значимістю денотатів топонімів. Топонімічні прізвиська є варіантами топонімів, обумовленими функціональним, емоційним та соціальним навантаженням. Вони відображають мовну універсалію, що пов'язана з синонімією внаслідок семантичного зношування та з проявом мовотворчості.

Характеризуючись значним ступенем варіювання в межах певного територіального варіанту, топоніми утворюють цілісний комплекс структурно-семантичних зв'язків, що відрізняють їх від аналогічних комплексів в інших територіальних варіантах та мовах. Тому за схожості загальних рис англійська топоніміка кожного територіального варіанта має власну специфіку (етимологічну, хронологічну, мотиваційну, структурну, словотворчу, культурологічну).

Ключові слова: топонім, оціночний вислів, власне ім'я, географічна назва, спілкування.