

Toponyms And The Expression Of “Toponymical Conceptual Semantics” In Them

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Abstract

This article is devoted to analyses of toponymical conceptual semantics in toponyms. The issues of cognitology, concept of “place”, toponymical conceptual semantics in toponyms and its appearance in the language have also taken in the article.

Key words: *toponymemes, toponymy, concept, cognitology, toponymical conceptual semantics, semantics or psychology, identical imagine, “place” category.*

1. Introduction

Toponyms are a huge linguistic and cultural-spiritual wealth of each nation 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.

Toponyms are one of the controversial issues in linguistics as one of the lexical categories, as there are a number of other “toponyms” related or similar to the lexical category (they have to deal with the “names” too), description and classification and their linguistic sphere are still the subject of great debate and controversy.

In the field of toponymy, a number of researches have been conducted and achieved significant progresses in recent years. In particular, it is worthy to mention the names of some scholars in the field of toponyms. For instance, in Uzbekistan H. Hasanov, E. Begmatov, S. Korayev, T. Nafasov, Z. Dosimov, N. Okhunov, S. Buriev, J. Latipov, T. Enazarov, S.Nayimov, T.Rakhmatov; in Azerbaijan: R.M.Yuzbashev; in Kazakhstan: K.Kankashbaev, A.Abdurahmonov and Toychibaev, T.Januzakov, E.Koyshybaev, K.Risbergenova; in Turkmenistan: M.Geldikhanov, S.Ataniyozov; in Kyrgyzstan S.Umurzakov, K.Konkabaev, D.I. Isayev; in Russia V. A. Nikonov, A. V. Superanskaya, A. P. Dulzon, E. M. Murzaev, V. N. Toporov, O.N. Trubachev, V.A. Serebryannikov, in Britain William Addison, William Alexander, Thomas Bayne, Stan Beckensall, Kenneth Cameron, David Mills); in America George R Stuart, Alf Dray and in Germany Jochen Lothar Leidner had conducted researches on toponyms. Furthermore, among the most important works on toponyms Y.M Pospelov's lexicographic research is one of the unique researches, in which the author for the first time systematized more than 5,000 geographical names of the world, resulting in the publication of his dictionary "Geographical names of the world: Toponymic dictionary." [1, p.504]

G.D. Tomaxin in his monograph "American Circulation of Americanism (on the origin and significance of toponyms of the USA)" tried to solve the crucial problems related to the etymology of toponyms and their semantics in the American version, which is one of the variants of the English language, but their linguocognitive, pragmatic and linguoculturological aspects have not been found out. [2, p.256]

There are many research works conducted in the English language materials on the toponyms. One of them is Kenneth Cameron's "English Place Names" which gives a toponymic description of the regions of England, revealing important linguistic and non-linguistic factors of their origins. [3]

Eddison William, in his pamphlet "Understanding English Place-names" made the semantic aspects of

English toponyms as his object of analysis, and it should be noted that the scholar also drew attention to the history of the origin of toponyms. [4]

William Alexander's monograph "Names of places in Aberdeenshire" developed a description and classification of local toponyms of place names belonging to the Aberdeenshire region. [5] But this classification is not completed enough.

Also, it is noteworthy to state a Dictionary of British Place-Names by British scholar David Mills. In this dictionary, the author gives an alphabetical explanation of British toponyms from the earliest times to the present, which is one of the largest toponymic dictionaries in Britain and contains more than 17,000 toponymic units. In addition, in this dictionary some common elements of place names in Britain are given in the form of a glossary. [6]

According to the American scientist George R. Stewart, "Toponyms are well-known names that mean the naming of geographical objects. Toponymy is studied by the science of toponymy. In his view, archaisms and dialectisms are preserved in toponyms, especially in hydronyms. [7, p.262] In any case at the heart of every toponym, whether it is dialectism or archaism, there is something that in a sense belongs to the nation, the people who lived there. It is safe to say that this is a peculiar feature of toponyms.

In the dissertation of candidacy by Irihanova K.M it was given an analysis of the application of English toponyms in fiction. [8]

S.V. Perkas's scientific work has an important role among the candidacy dissertations in the English language. Perkas, who worked on studying the paradigmatic and syntagmatic aspects of the linguostylistic potential of English toponyms in detail, gave a stylistic description of American toponyms too. [9]

The above-mentioned analysis of the relevant scientific literature has shown that these scientific works are undoubtedly valuable that they have contributed to the development of toponymic theory with their scientific innovations and achievements. These scientific researches are dominated by the traditional approach to toponyms, which focuses more on their etymological description, structural-semantic and functional aspects.

This article mainly focuses on the verbalizers of the English "toponymic conceptual semantics" and reveals the linguocognitive aspects of toponyms.

2. Research methodology

Historical, linguocognitive, contextual and oppositional methods were used in this research work.

3. Analysis and results

According to the principle of linguistics, based on the differences between "language" and "speech", we consider to express place names in all languages with the following general terms: 1) "toponymemes" (as a language unit) and 2) "toponym" (as a unit of speech) is the direct realization of a toponym in speech (Compare: phoneme and phone, lexeme and lex, phraseme and phrase, etc.)

The toponyms are subject to the laws of language as other lexemes; however they differ to some extent from other group words in terms of their appearance and some internal features are related to the daily material and spiritual condition of society, economic lifestyle and aspirations. Toponyms (or toponymemes) contain more ancient phonetic, lexical, and morphological elements specific to the national language of each nation. The natural geographical conditions of the place, the ethnic composition

of the population, the jobs and occupations of the people, the mineral resources, historical figures and events are the main sources of the formation of toponyms.

The uniqueness of the chain "human-thinking-language-culture" leads to the emergence of new research in the application of the concept, namely the concept of "place". The concept of "place", formed on the basis of the experience and traditions of the nation, is directly related to the concept of toponymy, and its comparative linguocognitive and linguocultural features in English and Uzbek have not been sufficiently studied. Linguocognitive study of the concept of "place" is crucial not only in linguistics, but also in the presentation of ideas and views on such disciplines as geography, archeology, etymology and anthropology.

We know that the category of space plays an important role in human life. Thoughts and methods in cognitive linguistics on the use of toponymy and toponymic sources help to obtain information about how space is mastered by man, how cognitive activity is reflected in language, and when conceptualization of space takes place. Research on the linguocognitive basis of toponyms is based on the "concept" of cognition and the "language" of linguistics. The Work on the conceptualization of space has given rise to research on the use of the concept with toponymic materials. Some of them contain a definition of the concept of "place".

Lexical materials allow us to discuss not only about the generalized concept of "place", but also about the toponymic concept of nouns. The study of such concepts assists to obtain information about the concept and its structure.

It is known that toponyms also arose due to communicative necessity and have a cognitive meaning- "toponymical conceptual semantics". As for the concept itself, it is a formed, molded, or rather; framed form of "conceptual / cognitive semantics" in our thoughts, or in other words, the "concept" is the result of complex processes such as "conceptualization" and "categorization" that form the basis of perception of this worldview [10, p.54]. It is ultimately a product of thinking, although it is impossible that the existing semantics in thinking are not reflected in language, it is certainly reflected. Thus, "toponymic conceptual semantics" is an important and necessary non-linguistic phenomenon for communication, which is a universal linguocognitive phenomenon that inevitably occurs in the language due to the necessity of communication, although realized through special language units, verbalizers and eventually becoming linguistic semantics.

According to the Uzbek scientist O.K. Yusupov, "a concept is a set of knowledge and images ; positive, negative and neutral attitudes and the assessment in our minds" [11, p.50]. Yusupov explains that it is impossible not to express the attitude of the speakers of the language to the object in the concept.

It is well known that a concept is the result of perception. In other words, a concept is a conceptual semantics, a manifestation of which is its final result. As a type of conceptual semantics, "toponymic conceptual semantics" is also expressed in language by various means.

We consider the manifestation of toponymic conceptual semantics in language in the following several multi-layered linguocognitive signs:

➤ the first layer is the *emotional layer*, which is stored in human memory and expressed in language.

We can call it a "*perspective layer*" too. Underlying emotional perception lies visual perception. We know that in most cases we acquire knowledge about the world through sight. The reason is that other senses, such as hearing and feeling, may not be as important when talking about mastering space. As A.A. Potebnya mentioned, if sight and feeling did not impress a person, he would not have an idea of mastering

space.

Based on our scientific research, it is possible to specify within the description of objects that are emotionally assimilated by man and reflected in place names, in particular, their color, shape, size and clarity. For example, the following place names are represented by 1) colors:

a) black - Ballyduff, Barraduff, Black Bourton, Black Mountains, Blackborough, Blackland, Black Head, Craigdoe, Dawlish, Dyfi, Deel, Deenish Island, Green Wisborough, Green Burrough, Green Whistley, (green),

b) white - Ballyfin, White Colne, Whitworth, Whittle-le-Woods, White Head, Craigban,

c) yellow - Coolboy, Craigboy,

d) gray - Ballyglass, Craiglea, Curryglass, Caltraghlea;

e) red - Balroe, Redmarshall, Redcar, Redhill;

The place names represented by the 2) shapes : Criffel (crushed), Brad (curved), Cocker (curved), Cromarty (curved), Ballaghkeen, Bohermeen (flat), Bradfield (wide, elongated).

Place names represented by 3) dimensions: Ash Magna, Great Asby, Little Asby, High Ackworth, Low Ackworth, Lower Avon, Great Baddow, Little Baddow, Great Badminton, Badminton Little, Great Bardfield, Little Bardfield, Lower Beeding, Upper Beeding, Upper Benefield, Lower Benefield, Long Bennington, Big Mancot, Great Billing, Little Billing, Much Birch, Little Birch, High Cogges, High Coniscliffe, Low Coniscliffe, Much Cowarne, Little Cowarne, Lower Cumberworth, Upper Cumberworth, Great Dalby, Little Dalby, Great Dunham Little Dunham, Lower Dunsforth, Upper Dunsforth, Great Everdon, Nether Exe, Upper Exe, Loch Fada, Great Gidding, Little Gidding, Ballyeighter (lower townland), Steeple Gidding, Nether Haddon, Over Haddon, Nether Worton, Over Worton, Great Whittington, Higher Whitley, Lower Whitley, Whitacre, Nether & Whitacre, Over, Great Gidding, Little Gidding, Nether Haddon, Over Haddon, Much Hadham, Little Hadham, Linstead Magna, Linstead Parva, Great Massingham, Little Massingham.

We can also add that “toponymic conceptual semantics” can be lexemes which represent place names related to *flora or fauna*. In ancient times, such names were formed in the minds of the people living there and moved to the image of objects. M.: Aspenden (ash), Ashby, Ashbourne (ant-growing area), Craf (garlic), Daron (oak), Bawdrip (badger-growing area), Ballaghaderreen (oak-growing area), Laughterton (cabbage-growing area), Laughill (slate growing hill), Crocknagapple (a place with a lot of horses), Laughton (spring onions), Swallowcliffe (swallow)

➤ we call the second layer directly “a cognitive layer”.

It is known that in the toponyms representing the names of rivers we can find the components of water (sea, water) and flowing.

For example: Avon (water), Dour (water) and others. We might encounter toponyms represented by symbols associated with flowing as well. For example: the Pacific Ocean, Silent flowing Don, the Sour (fast), the Calder (strong), the Brue (steady), the Creed (slow), the Forth (peace), and so on. The characters in such toponyms are related to movement. However, the direct expression of flowing signs is not given in some of them, but the physical description of the process of movement in place names expressed by flowing signs moves to these toponyms. To our view of points, this indicates the existence

of a layer of “toponymical conceptual semantics” associated with the reflection of conceptual symbols.

- the third layer in the structure of "toponymical conceptual semantics" is called the *affective (emotional)* layer.

According to the existence of this layer, a man has experienced certain feelings associated with this or that object in existence, and has transferred these feelings to the names of places that existed at that time. For example, Blaydon (sad), Crickdale (heavy, difficult), Crickadarn (strong), Funny Louis (Cheerful Louise)

- the next layer in the structure of "toponymical conceptual semantics" can be called a *"priceless"* layer.

It is well known that mankind in ancient times regarded the phenomena of nature as a divine force, and thus the names of places sanctified or deified came from them. It means that this layer is automatically dependent on religion. For example: Brent (holy), Dee (goddess), Crosby (cross), Awbridge (abbot), Kirk Bramwith (church), St. Mary Ashby (saint Mary)

- one of the next important layers is the *appropriative* layer.

In other words, it can be called an *"anthropotonymic"* layer. As mentioned above, man has also made his own to limit any place from strangers. Hence, the place names belonging to this person or that person are common among toponyms. Interestingly, such toponyms occur not only in the settlements around the farm and the property, for example, Alvanley, Bolteby, Bowthorpe, Wimbledon Uzmaston, but also in the names of places built there due to the specific nature of the place, for example, Arkendale, Asheldham, Ashington, Ashprington, Babbacombe, Badingham, Barrington, Dagenham, Dalderby.

- the last layer is the locative layer.

Based on the research analysis, it can be said that the structure of toponymic conceptual semantics also consists of the relation of the geographical location of a given object to another similar object or to several objects at once. Such a situation can often be found in English toponyms. For example, East Barkwith, North Barkwith, East Coker, North Coker, West Coker, North Cliffe, South Cliffe, North Cadbury, South Cadbury, New Buckenham, Old Buckenham, New Brighton, East Bedfont, West Bedfont, Far Cotton, West Deeping East Torrington, West Torrington, South Zeal, East Wretham, North Wraxall, South Wraxall, East Worldham, West Worldham, North Warnborough, South Warnborough, Old Leake, Old Sodbury, North Skirlaugh, South Skirlaugh, East Quantoxhead, West Quantoxhead, Old Lakenham, New Lakenham, New Malden.

4. Conclusion

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

- toponyms can represent one or more toponymic layers.
- “toponymical conceptual semantics” can also change depending on the type of objects associated with our knowledge of the world.
- although the structural aspects of the toponyms studied in English 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.

- "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.

- 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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