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THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF THE STUDY OF TOPONYMS

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Abstract: The scientific literature on the problems of toponymy published in our country in the last two decades is analyzed, and the main directions of research of this layer of vocabulary are considered.

The problems of toponymy, which have been exciting the minds of scientists for decades, can be explained by a number of reasons. The main one lies not only and not so much in the fact that geographical names form a special part of onomastic vocabulary, but in the fact that geographical proper names, as researchers rightly note, are a reflection of the history and culture of an ethnic group, as well as the history of the development of a particular region in the conditions of interethnic language contacts [1, 35 p.; 3, 98 p.; 5, 124 p.].

An analysis of the literature published in our country from 1990 to the present shows that the study of geographical names pursues different goals and objectives and is carried out in a variety of directions. Nevertheless, in numerous publications on toponymy, three blocks of the main problems can be distinguished, which to one degree or another dominate in special studies on various aspects of linguistic science.

The first block includes general problems related to understanding language as a system. According to this formulation of the problem, toponyms are considered as a special class of words forming their own system and at the same time being an integral part of the general language system.

The second block concerns the problems of onomasiology. It includes such issues as the basic principles of toponymy, word-formation models and their

productivity, the typology of toponyms by structure, native and borrowed topoformants.

The third block highlights the problems of semasiology, including the meaning of a toponym and its internal form, semantic connections of different types of geographical names, the organization of a toponymicon, and others.

Thus, in the toponymic studies of recent years, three main directions can be distinguished, in which both the general theoretical problems of toponymy and the problems of onomasiology and semasiology are considered.

In addition, a review of the literature shows that, depending on the theoretical basis of the study, two main approaches to analysis can be distinguished language material. One of them continues to develop the already traditional study of toponyms as part of the lexical system. Such a perspective of understanding the problems is typical for the 70-80 years. XX century, when the focus of scientists' attention was on the issues of the systemic organization of the vocabulary language and its individual categories, in particular toponyms. This approach to the analysis of toponymic vocabulary with a certain degree of conventionality is called traditional. In a number of studies, a new approach can also be identified that meets the goals and objectives of anthropocentric linguistics, text linguistics and the cognitive-discursive (communicative) paradigm of scientific knowledge. In these works, it is enough.

The problems of onomasiology and semasiology as the main directions of the description of the lexical fund of the language are also in the focus of the attention of scientists.

A.V. Superanskaya, a recognized authority in the field of onomastics, focuses on the uniqueness of proper names and their difference from other categories of vocabulary, primarily from common names. The subject of her reflections is the historical variability and ethnic identity of the toponymicon [5, 96 p.; 6, 67 p.]. A.V. Superanskaya develops the main provisions that received a wide public response and thereby contributed to the formation and development of toponymy as a science.

As an example of this kind of work, we will name the study of A. A. Zakirov, who described the history of the emergence, development and functioning of the

toponymic system of the Jizzakh region of Uzbekistan, identified its lexical and semantic sources, the main word-formation models and ethnolinguistic layers. Comparative analysis geographical names of this region with toponyms of other regions of Uzbekistan and neighboring Turkic republics allowed the author to clarify issues concerning the contacts of the Uzbek language with Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Russian languages, and to prove that the formation and development of the toponymy of the studied region, as well as toponymy throughout the territory of the Uzbek language, took place in accordance with phonetic, morphological and word-formation the laws of the Turkic languages [7, 14 p.].

Obviously, more specific problems of studying toponymy as a lexical subsystem can be attributed to this area of geographical names research in order to determine the place

occupied by individual categories of toponyms in it. An example of this kind of work is the research of S. M. Khantimirov [2, 8 p.] and I. V. Toporkova [4, 11 p.], confirming that each type of toponyms has its own patterns of formation and functioning.

Studies of this kind convincingly prove not only the systemic nature of toponymy in each linguistic culture, but also its structural and semantic originality.

The above data indicate that the study of general theoretical problems of toponymy is still relevant, especially relevant research on the material of specific languages and regions, since any toponymic system is unique and inimitable. This circumstance partly explains the increased interest of scientists in regional toponymy in recent years [1, 34 p.; 4, 9 p.; 7, 16 p.]. The importance of research is, first of all, they reveal the correlation of common language and dialect vocabulary in the categories of a certain area and show the role of dialectisms in the formation and development of the studied toponymicon. In addition, they allow you to restore the historical and geographical appearance of the region.

In the works listed above, as a rule, the problems of not only onomasiology, but also semasiology are solved, since these two areas of linguistic research are closely related. In the analyzed publications there are practically no special works

devoted to the description of the semantics and internal form of geographical names of the studied area, as well as the identification of the semantic organization of the toponymicon.

The problems of semasiology and onomasiology listed above are considered mainly on the material of geographical names of a specific linguistic area (region, region, city, etc.).

The solution of many of the above problems is unthinkable without referring to the facts of the history and culture of the ethnos, because of this, scientists in their research to a greater or lesser extent use a comprehensive methodology based on diachronic data.

So, an analysis of the literature over the past 20 years It shows that several basic approaches can be distinguished in the study of geographical names. According to the data obtained, the traditional approach to the analysis of toponymic vocabulary, focused on the study of toponyms as part of the language system, has not exhausted its capabilities. The researchers continue to focus on the issues of the systematic organization of the toponymicon and its historical development, issues of toponymy and the semantics of geographical names. However, the problems of toponymy are considered mainly on the material of geographical names of a specific linguistic area. This indicates that the perspective of the discussion of the main problems has shifted towards regional toponymy. Along with this, there is an increase in comparative studies of toponymicon, which allows us to identify the ethnospecific toponymy in a particular language and region and meets the needs of modern linguistics, analyzing language as a fact of culture.

In most works, synchronous dominates an approach to the analysis of linguistic phenomena, although there are also special studies carried out within the framework of the diachronic approach.

The appeal to foreign toponymy is only a small fraction of onomasiological research. It should also be noted the contribution of toponymic research to the further development of linguistics and related scientific disciplines. They allow, in particular, to determine the ratio of universal and specific in toponymy; to identify word-

formation models characteristic of certain types of geographical names. In addition, the analysis of the etymology and semantics of toponyms makes it possible to understand how geographical space is being mastered, and to trace the cultural contacts of ethnic groups in the mirror of the toponymicon.

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