

Semantics of proper names

Kozieva Iqbol Kamiljonovna

Bukhara State University Teacher of the departments of Russian Language and Literature, Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The article says that semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meanings of linguistic units. One of the linguistic universals is onyms. It also tells about proper names, which are used to name various objects that distinguish them from the total mass of similar objects.

Keywords: Anthroponymy, semantics, anthroponyms, personal name, anthroponymy, proper names, personal name, common names, appellative meaning of names.

Introduction: Semantics (the same as semasiology, translated from Greek by *sēmaino* – "I indicate, I mean") is a branch of linguistics that studies the meanings of linguistic units. One of the linguistic universals is onyms. The proper names used to name various objects distinguish them from the general mass of similar objects. Thanks to them, it is possible to individualize and identify (define) this object (or the type of this object). Each language unit has a plan of expression (external side) and a plan of content (internal). The same qualities are inherent in proper names.

The plan of expression for proper names and common nouns may be somewhat identical (more or less), but the plan of their content never converges, and may even show an obvious contradiction (for example: an intelligent person with the surname Stupov). In proper names, the appellative meaning can change from the expressive (Dead The sea) to the conditional (the city of Zeleny Guy, where there is no forest now), erased (Zaragoza) and completely unclear (names such as Minsk, Kiev, Crimea, the Urals have many hypothetical explanations for the origin, but none clear).

In everyday speech situations, the appellative meaning of proper names may not be of interest to anyone, but the names will still perform their functions. A name is perceived as an original proper name to a greater extent if it has less appellative meaning, if the appellative is less tangible.

If the connection with the concept of the appellative,

which served as the basis of this name, is felt to a greater extent in the name, then this name is close to the category of common names. Names such as University of Economics, City Theater, Sports boarding schools are distinguishable from common names only by the fact that they are fixed in a specific situation, for one specific object, thereby weakening their connection with the concept. It happens that with the continued functioning of a word as a proper name, the semantics of the common noun, which was the basis for it, weakens in it. But there are also quite a large number of short-term proper names (various nicknames, nicknames), where the weakening (reduction) of semantics simply does not have time to occur. Among other things, this reduction is often highly undesirable. As a rule, such names are created in some narrow circle of people, and their meaning is completely clear only in this environment, among those who created them. If, for some reason, these proper names are supposed to have a reduction in semantics, then they are immediately replaced by more relevant ones. Since such proper names (nicknames) do not depend on any official registration, the birth of new names and the oblivion of old ones is carried out quite easily and quickly, without any difficulties.

Using as an example new names that arose after the revolution (invented or borrowed), such as Rosa, Lilia, Oktyabrina, Novomir and others, one can show how easily and quickly the appellative meaning of the foundations that gave rise to these names weakens in onomastics. Such names make an impression due to

their strangeness and novelty, but gradually they lose touch with the common names that gave rise to them. This connection becomes as "silenced" as in traditional names such as Faith, Hope, Love, Leo. As a result, it turns out that names such as Moscow, Minsk, the Academic Theater, the Bear, the Dnieper, etc., are perceived as proper names that operate each in its own field of application, and are interpreted precisely in the form required by the specific situation and context, regardless of whether the concepts have been preserved in them. appeals or not.

Proper name categories In order to better understand the issues related to the semantics of proper names, it is necessary to focus on a number of common language categories and symbols, showing the totality of their features in onomastics. These are the categories: significance, information, value, function, significance, significance.

The importance of a proper name stands out in linguistic terms. She equalizes proper names with other parts of speech, separating proper names from it and combining them with each other. At the same time, the main thing at the language level is the attribution of a word to proper names – this is usually enough for the direct participants in the speech act to correctly understand the speech product.

In this regard, to a certain extent, those who limit the semantics of proper names to the fact that they are proper names are right. For example, in order to understand a read text and translate it into another language, it is enough to understand that one or more unfamiliar words are proper names. This understanding will also be sufficient for a satisfactory (non-artistic) translation, just as it is sufficient to provide a subscript translation for all other words. For the most general understanding of the text, a more detailed analysis of proper names is not necessary. The syntax of a sentence usually gives an indication of whether the name designates a place, an actor, or something else. For a deeper understanding of the text, a more dissected attitude towards the names contained in it as peculiar lexemes is required. However, the general significance of words as proper names, sufficient for the syntactic analysis of a sentence, is not enough to perceive their information.

There are three types of name information: speech, language, and encyclopedic. They lie in different planes and exist independently of each other. Speech information connects the name with the object and reveals the speaker's attitude to the object. This is the most widespread and "superficial" information of the name, which is always present for everyone. Precisely because of its mass character, it is very vague,

voluminous, and can vary from one speaker to another depending on their character traits and the extralinguistic conditions of the speech situation. The speech information of the name suggests that the initial acquaintance with the object has already occurred; this is an indispensable condition for introducing the name into speech.

Encyclopedic information is a set of knowledge about an object that is accessible to every member of a language collective using a given name. Without a name, an object cannot receive encyclopedic information, since it is associated with the object by means of a name. In some cases (objects with worldwide fame), names can even act as a kind of "substitute" for objects. The encyclopedic information of a name is largely subjective, it cannot be objective due to the individuality of perception. For names and objects with worldwide fame, the encyclopedic information will be much more homogeneous and larger in volume than for names (and objects) with locally limited fame. But even today, there may be a person who does not know who Napoleon or Cervantes were.

The encyclopedic information of a name includes not only the complex of information that appears to the speaker as a result of acquaintance with the object, but also the amount of preliminary information about the object that he can obtain without ever seeing it. The minimum of this information required to enter the name In speech, it comes down to finding that generic definable (conceptual word) with which this name correlates. For example, Nirk is the name of an island, Vasily is the name of a person.

The linguistic information of a name (except for the primary and minimal information that it is a name) is its most permanent and unchanging informative part. It lies in the nature and composition of the components of the name. But to get it, it is necessary to analyze the name in detail, which in itself is very difficult. Y.A. Karpenko identifies five aspects of such information: 1) the linguistic affiliation of the name or the word from which it is formed; 2) the word-formation model of the name; 3) the etymological meaning; 4) the choice of this particular (and not another) generating basis; 5) the local situation, the situation at the time of the creation of the name

In a more detailed analysis of proper names, we come across the concept of their value in the system. Since this concept is a product of the system and does not exist outside the system, the value of individual names can only be discussed in cases where the entire naming system is considered. This applies, first of all, to the synchronous description of names existing in limited

territories, as well as in closed groups, i.e. to regional onomastic research. In such easily visible systems based on modern language tools that are easily accessible to every speaker, each element is endowed with its own special value. Since all the elements are clear in a living onomastic system, changes and rearrangements of the system occur easily and imperceptibly. Realignment that occurs with one or more elements nevertheless affects the entire system as a whole, since they change the role and value of each element in relation to each, and not just two "neighboring" elements relative to each other.

A proper name is a word, and as such it fits the definition of a two-sided word with a sound and meaning. The meaning of a word is those concepts, associations that arise in the mind when pronouncing a word. A function is an assignment; a role performed by a unit of language when it is reproduced in speech. The following functions of proper names in speech are possible: 1) communicative (message, representation), when the name known to the interlocutors serves as the basis of the message; 2) appellative (appeal, impact); 3) expressive (expressive); it usually contains well-known names that are on the way to becoming common names; 4) deictic (indicative). Often in this function, the pronunciation of the name is accompanied by an indication of the object.

These functions are also common to common names. Every word, including a proper name, can become the basis of a message under certain conditions. In addition to "things" that can have names and words that serve these purposes, there is also a conceptual sphere that has long been subjected to ordering in the works of logicians and linguists. Just as the totality of proper names in their application to denotations can be called an onomastic space, the sphere of the ideal (meaning, meaning as the relation of words to the objects they designate) can be called a semantic space, which is divided into semantic zones, or fields.

Proper names are primarily a vocabulary, with a vocabulary that has a special consistency with complex relationships of parallelism and contrast, as well as a weakened connection with the conceptual sphere. Therefore, the use of the terms "conceptual" or "associative" field in relation to onomastic vocabulary is possible only in a limited number of cases when referring to names with universal fame, which in some situations may become common names. A field in onomastics is a certain sphere of correlation of a name, which for communicants is usually defined extralinguistically. Knowledge of the boundaries and hierarchy of onomastic fields is necessary for the correct use and understanding of names. If the boundaries of the fields are not clear, then the

perception of names is difficult.

At the lexical level, the semantics of a proper name boils down only to the fact that it is a proper name; the name is included in one common, undifferentiated onomastic field, which is part of a complex of semantic fields. This field can be divided into more specific ones in connection with the object correlation of names: anthroponymic, toponymic, etc. in accordance with the spheres into which we divide the onomastic space. The degree of dissection of onomastic fields and their hierarchy for people who use names depends on the degree of their familiarity with the objects bearing these names. And since this is individual for each member of the language collective, the allocation of more specific onomastic fields is to a certain extent subjective, although it exists for everyone. It is often determined by a person's profession and degree of education and well-read. To understand some names (with wide popularity), a minimally defined onomastic field is sufficient: names such as Repin, Lev Tolstoy, are known and understandable to every cultured person. To understand other names, a number of successive narrowings of the field are necessary.

In addition to the further segmented special onomastic field for proper names, especially for anthroponyms, a social field can also be distinguished, which within this particular onomastic field indicates a number of extralinguistic relations between denotation and society. The social field has a complex hierarchical structure and combines both purely linguistic (words) and extralinguistic elements. From a sociological point of view, a social field is a social group (a group of people living together, connected to each other by various social relationships); From a linguistic point of view, it is a social dialect with its specific vocabulary, fully understandable only to members of a given society; from a substantive point of view, it is a typical range of things that characterize the life of a given social group. The extralinguistic concept of "social field" can, however, serve to explain and clarify a number of purely linguistic problems. Society, i.e. the field of activity of specific people, is primary, real, extralinguistic. The social field of anthroponymy is the linguistic refraction of extralinguistic social relations and their anchoring to certain forms of naming.

The study of various kinds of associations is extremely important when studying any nomination, especially onomastic ones. The associations that took place at the time of the creation of proper names, as well as those associated with names in the process of their use in speech, are wide and diverse. They form a complex that far surpasses the range of associations of common names. In addition to associations that are more or less unambiguously associated with one name or another

among the members of the language collective, each person has his own special and unique associations in individual use. If the uniform historical, political, everyday and other connotations associated with a collective name outgrow its direct geographical or anthroponymic purpose in their strength and brightness, the name may turn into a household name.

The transformation of proper names into common names (Cheviot, Bordeaux, utopia) is a fact of the language, one of the ways to replenish its vocabulary. At the same time, breaking with one concept (city, country), the connection with which was mediated, the words are connected by a strong, logical connection with other concepts (fabric, wine, color, impossible ideas). But this is a priority for proper names, although it is natural. More typical for them is an association with a named object + a complex of various information about the object + a complex of emotions caused by this object in the speaker.

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