



Research of Water Names in Onomastics

Bozorova Rufina Sharopovna

Senior teacher of the Department of German Philology at Bukhara State University

***Abstract.** The article discusses the names of water bodies, which are one of the most important sources of the history of language and settlements in Germany. The thoughts and opinions of famous German scientists were reflected in a series of researches on the way of researching the names of water bodies. Also, the history of the origin of the names of water bodies is widely covered with the help of examples.*

***Keywords:** old European hydronymy, phonology, onomastic research, chronology of water names, potamonym, etymology.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important sources of language and settlement history in Germany is the names of water bodies. Since the first half of the 19th century, generally accepted names of water bodies are usually older than place names. For example, the pre-Celtic and pre-Germanic names of water bodies in (Central) Europe are undoubtedly related to coinage in the 2nd millennium BC. This led to an intensive study of water names, which culminated in the early 1940s in which the Indo-European scholar Hans Krahe (1898-1965) published many works. Krahe managed to systematically analyze the ancient layer of names of water bodies in Europe, that is, names that cannot be given in one language (for example, Germanic, Celtic, etc.). He called this system of water names "old European hydronymy". His research was at a level characterized by a certain conservatism in the Indo-European studies that were common in the German-speaking area at that time. At this level of knowledge, further research on ancient European hydronymy was carried out by H. Krahe (in the German-speaking area), his student Wolfgang Schmid (1929-2010) and his student Jürgen Udolf (1943).

The last two researchers made a special contribution to the inclusion of Baltic and Slavic materials in the research. However, for him, like many other researchers working in this field, the results of recent decades of Indo-European research in the field of phonology have been less accepted and applied than in the field of morphology. However, in the last few decades, great progress has been made in Indo-European studies precisely in the field of word-formation morphology, which includes root ablaut

stages, stress position, suffix form for advanced language levels and their meaning allows you to think clearly about it. This knowledge of Indo-European studies has so far been hardly used for the study of the oldest strata in (Central) Europe. With all this in mind, it becomes clear that until recently the study of this oldest layer of material names was ultimately carried out using the methodological tools of pre-war Indo-European studies. Consequently, this is the goal of Indo-European and onomastic studies, and in order to finally analyze this very important (stationary and archaic) word material according to the latest state of Indo-European linguistics, it was first necessary to obtain reliable analyzes of individual names.

Based on these analyses, new layers are identified in the chronology or distribution of names. However, for the time being, the adequately reviewed material is not extensive enough to draw additional (new) conclusions here. In addition, the analysis of material from the modern level of Indo-European studies alone will probably help clarify the question of how the material of Old European hydronymy can be classified in the linguistic history of Europe as a whole. So far, there is no single attitude in this regard. However, it seems clear that the Indo-European language layer from which the hydronyms originated was not directly continued by any of the later Indo-European languages spoken in Europe.

Water names (hydronyms) refer to field names, so they are geographical names. Hence, the names of water bodies are also closely related to some other geographical names, such as place names. Water names or hydronyms (Greek *hydor* "water") are names of rivers, streams, canals, lakes, ponds, etc. River names or potamonyms (Greek *potamos* 'river') refer to running water (river, stream, spring, canal, etc) and lake names (lake, pond, quarry pond, swamp, etc. permanent names [1].

Damaris Nübling, a German scientist who studied the names of water, first of all defines all the concepts related to the names of water bodies and emphasizes that these types of names are also divided into types of flowing and non-flowing water bodies. However, according to Jürgen Udolf, another German scientist who conducted a series of studies on hydronyms, this classification is not always correct. According to him, it is appropriate to classify the names of water bodies as "names of running water" and "names of stagnant water", but it is not always a clear distinction, but it is also necessary to know the character of the water body in the name [2].

In addition, the names of water bodies are often names that have existed for a very long time. They are undoubtedly the oldest and most permanent names that have been passed down through the ages [3]. This means that most reservoir names have existed for several centuries. The names of water bodies, especially the names of larger rivers, have proven to be surprisingly consistent due to their constant orienting function, and are considered to be very ancient. As the oldest layer of pre-Indo-European monolingual names, "Old European hydronyms" spread over large parts of Europe are found together with other Indo-European names (mountain names, settlement names) [4].

Watershed names exist through vitality and endurance, which do not die out even when populations change (H. Krahe 1950: pp. 39-40). Due to their durability, they also have an orientation function, and names change through different languages and dialects. For example, the Celts or the Romans influenced various water names. For example, many Celtic names have disappeared today, or they have spread through Romanization and Germanization. Therefore, some evidence for the interpretation of Celtic names is lacking, and many interpretations are unclear [5]. The Celts had a great influence on the

naming of water bodies. However, there were a number of changes in the names even during the Roman or Germanic period.

In long-held territories, including the Lim and the Danube, the Romans took over existing names and supplemented them when necessary, creating new settlement names based on factual circumstances, which have preserved the names of rulers in various forms to this day. Along with a number of Germanic names, ancient writers also created Germanic water names and some mountain names [6].

Thus, the names of water bodies are derived from the Celtic language under Roman and Germanic influence. This means that the linguistic history of the names of water bodies is very complex and not always 100 percent clear. Water names (hydronyms) are often the subject of special studies in onomastics. The reason for this is not because the name is a special type, but because the names of rivers and lakes are old" [7].

The name Laaber or the river Laber occurs several times in Lower Bavaria and Upper Palatinate, for example: 1. Grosse Laaber (on the right bank of the Danube, west of Straubing); 2. Kleine (Little) Laaber (to the right of Grosse Laaber; Landshut district); 3. Schwarze (Black) Laaber (on the left side of the Danube near Sinzing; district of Regensburg; 4. Weiße (White) Laaber (on the left, Altmühl near Dietfurt) Altmühl, district of Neumarkt.

In short, based on the names of water bodies, the following place names were derived: Laberweinting (Straubing-Bogen district), Laaber, Laaberberg. Earlier etymological interpretations show that the Oldest High German had forms such as Lapara:, Old High German Labara, and Middle High German Laber(e). Of course, Celtic can be questioned here as a donor language. The name appears in the oldest High German language. It can be seen that the sound b in the name first changed to p, and after some time it became b again. Hence, the variants of the Celtic form Labara or Labra can be accepted. The vowel a in the final form is thought to be of Celtic or West Germanic origin. This etymology applies mainly to Celtic water names and place names. For the given Celtic personal names, the traditional explanation of Old Celtic adjective *lab(a)ro- 'talkative', 'boastful' should probably be a better solution. In other words, Celtic personal names must be distinguished from Celtic water names on the one hand, and from place names on the other, despite their compatibility.

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