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СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ ОНИМОВ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ АМЕРИКАНСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается семантический анализ онимов в современном американском языке. Основное внимание уделено на изучение основных функций топонимов и антропонимов. Проанализировав несколько топонимов, можно сделать вывод, что американские топонимы по своему происхождению очень разнообразны. Они выполняют художественно-эстетическую, информационную функцию. Проанализировав особенности топонимов и антропонимов, мы пришли к выводу, что американские топонимы и антропонимы являются неотъемлемой частью истории и культуры американской нации, ее социальной и политической жизни.

Ключевые слова: антропоним, топоним, художественный текст, имя собственное, американские онимы.

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SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF ONYMS IN MODERN AMERICAN LANGUAGE

Abstract

This article discusses the semantic analysis of onyms in modern American language. We focus on the study of the basic functions of toponyms and anthroponyms. After analyzing several pieces of toponyms, we can draw that American toponyms in its origin are very diverse. They perform artistic and aesthetic, informational function. After analyzing the features of toponyms and anthroponyms, we came to the conclusion that American toponyms and anthroponyms are an integral part of the history and culture of the American nation, its social and political life.

Keywords: anthroponym, toponym, literary text, proper name, American onyms.

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Onomastics has emerged as an applied science, essential for historians, geographers, ethnographers, literary critics, and do not go beyond the auxiliary scientific discipline, yet it was the representatives of these professions. Onomastics examines the nature of proper names, their functional specificity, the origin, development, communication with all levels of the language. This is the essence of linguistic science, but beyond the fact of linguistics through the inclusion of geographical, historical, ethnographic, cultural, sociological, literary, psychological and other aspects. Well-known Russian linguists, such as Gorbanevskii M.V., Salimova D.A., Tupikova N. M., Selishcheva A. M., Chichagov V. K., Sobolev A. I. and others, as well as a number of foreign scientists, for example A. Gardiner – England, A. Dauzat – France, P. Reyney – England, W. Taschizki – Poland and others have studied in their scientific researchers the relevance of the problem definition and the analysis of correlation between the linguistic nature of onyms.

A General characterization of American toponyms includes its etymology, the lexico-semantic meaning of toponyms in the process of its development. Thus, we can say that the geographical names are very different in their linguistic nature.

American toponyms can be divided into five groups:

- the proper names that reflect the physical and natural characteristics of the objects: *Alaska* – mainland (literally, “the object that sent the action of the sea”); *Delaware* – from the Delaware river, named after Baron de La Ware (originally from the Normande *la guerre* or *de la werre*, “relating to war”);

- proper names are given to geographical features after prominent people, who associated with a particular place: *Louisiana* – named in honor of king Louis XIV. The name “Louis” originates from “famous” and “war”;

Maryland – in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I. the Name “Maria” translated from Hebrew means “bitterness” or “rebelliousness”; perhaps from Egyptian “beloved” or “love”.

- proper nouns borrowed from other countries: *Mississippi* – the name of an Indian tribe without changes is taken as a place name; *Texas* – from the name of an Indian tribe Wichita);

- proper names, which were the result of human economic activity: *Georgia* – farmer; *Alabama* – clearing away bushes or plant gatherers;

- proper names that have been changed the former names of geographical objects or fictitious names: *Laputa* – imaginary flying island in “Gulliver’s Travels” by J. Swift, populated impractical scientists and philosophers, who all the time indulge the sublime reflections, having lost all touch with reality.

During the selection toponymic units from dictionaries, researchers take into account some important factors – especially of place names, their meaning in society, and the history of the people and the frequency of their use in communicative communities.

After analyzing several pieces of toponyms, we can draw the following conclusion that American toponyms in its origin are very diverse. They may not change for centuries. We analyzed 100 units (toponyms), we found that 40% of them are toponyms that reflect the physical and natural characteristics of the objects; 20% the names are given to geographical features after prominent people and borrowed from other countries; 15% of the names are appeared as a result of economic activities of people; and 5% of place names have been changed the former names of geographical objects or fictional place names. This can be seen in the first table.

As for the anthroponyms, their structural models can be analyzed from the point of view of their linguistic and social significance, their basic functions in the communication process. Included in the phraseological, units of the anthroponyms can serve as a special linguistic means expressing an order, a threat, a rebuke, a warning and having a positive, negative or neutral colour (*to wear **Joseph's coat**, the jolly **Roger***).

The main functions of anthroponyms in fiction are defined by their stylistic values, reflecting the characteristics of American anthroponyms. They perform artistic and aesthetic, informational function. The authors differ in using the linguistic resources. This extends to proper names, including, and anthroponyms, too. For example, an anthroponym **Uncle Tom**: “The canal opened up and she saw, in the centre of a harbor of discarded warehouses, an old black man straight out of Uncle Tom's Cabin is sitting on a tethered raft and playing his cello to a group of spellbound children.” This anthroponym is seemed the imagination of very good, old, humble and positive person. Significant places of an American anthroponyms are taken characters from classical mythology and biblical books, some of them have negative connotations.

The anthroponyms are widely used both in prose and poetic works of literature. The focus of this work is the study of the origin of anthroponyms and their use in a poetic text.

Speaking about the main differences of prose and poetic texts, we can pointed out that in a prose text the value of a proper name is characterized by indivisibility. In prose the words retain only necessary for the context values, the remaining values of this word are eliminated.

All the anthroponyms appearing in the poetic text can be conditionally divided into two large groups. First, the anthroponyms can nominate actors poetry, presenting as a well-known personality, and brand new characters created by the author of the work. Second, in the poetic text, the anthroponym can play the role of semantic milestones, causing a number of different associations with already known to the reader texts.

In poetry, the anthroponyms are often nominated direct actors of poetry. This kind of anthroponyms can be divided into two groups:

a) a central figure of the poetic works can be literary, biblical or historical character. This character functions in a new poetic work, while maintaining their distinctive features and fully assimilating in the lines of the new text. As a rule, this use of the anthroponyms we can found in various devotions, meditations on the topic of historical events or works of art, memoirs, etc.

For example, the ballad of John Greenleaf Whittier, written in 1863, during the Civil war in the United States, is dedicated to the real event – a brave act nonagenarian resident of Frederick town **Barbara Frietchie**, who hung the Union flag in front of marching through the streets soldiers of the Confederate army led by General Jackson:

Barbara Frietchie's work is over,
And the Rebel rides on his raids no more.

Honor to her! and let a tear
Fall, for her sake, on Stonewall's bier.
Over **Barbara Frietchie's** grave,
Flag of Freedom and Union, wave!

b) the name of the hero of the poetical works may not be associated with the literary-historical context. In most cases, in the translation of proper names – anthroponyms are saved and do not cause difficulties when transferring to another language. For example, American writer **Edgar Allan Poe** wrote in his composition about **Annabel Lee** :

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of **Annabel Lee**;
And this maiden she lived with no other thought
That to love and be loved by me.

There has been debate over who, if anyone, was the inspiration for “Annabel Lee”. Though many women have been suggested, Poe's wife Virginia Eliza Clemm Poe is one of the more credible candidates.

Researchers have repeatedly noted that the functioning of proper names in the text has its own peculiarities, so names are an integral part of the form works of art, element of style of the writer, a means of creating an artistic image. Onyms can carry a markedly pronounced meaning, have an unusual sound shape, and have a hidden associative background. Proper names should be stylistically correct and accurate, must conform to the whole spirit, the idea, purposes works, and should bear a characteristic flavor and sometimes some special meaning, a special meaning, which is concentrated expressed in the author's idea.

Thus, it is possible to draw the following conclusions that a literary text anthroponyms can nominate his actors, and these actors can be as a figment of the imagination of the author, and the real historical characters; most of the anthroponyms in the poem is etymologically, “speaking”, that is semantically marked.

After analyzing the features of toponyms and anthroponyms, we came to the conclusion that American toponyms and anthroponyms are an integral part of the history and culture of the American nation, its social and political life. All American onyms can be classified in groups, along with the main nominative function, an additional function giving the connotation that contains the emotional evaluation of the consequences, associations, etc.

Each writer tries to show that the onyms using in his work clearly show the internal state of the characters, their feelings and experiences. Anthroponyms and toponyms are organically motivated into a system of language means of the American poetic texts, participate in creating the General shape of the works, and vividly paint a panorama of the surrounding reality. All this allows speaking about high degree of erudition of the author, wide range of interests, and the magnitude of the philosophical worldview.

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