

## Object of Onomastic Research

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### Abstract

Onomastics is a branch of linguistics that studies any famous names, the history of their origin and change, as well as the sum of all famous names. In some studies, the term “onomastics” is also used in the sense of anthroponymy. Onomastics aims to identify and study existing onomastic systems.

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The term onomastics has two meanings. First, it denotes the complex science of proper names; secondly, proper names themselves; the term onymy is also used in the latter sense. The allocation of special onomastic problems from the general range of linguistic ones is justified by the position of proper names in the language. Proper names are a part of the language that demonstrates the most paradoxical situations, the analysis of which should contribute to the emergence of new, more in-depth general linguistic concepts.

A wide interest in the problems of onomastics, accompanied by the appearance of numerous works devoted to its individual, particular phenomena, requires the creation of general works, which, on the one hand, would generalize disparate facts and, in particular, clarify and unify onomastic terminology, and on the other hand, identify explored and unexplored areas of this complex discipline, indicating directions for further research. Empirical work requires the creation of theoretical work. The collection of factual material should also be preceded by the study of a number of basic provisions of general onomastics so that the researcher can know where, what and for what purpose to look in the vast sea of proper names.

There are a number of sciences that are especially interested in onomastic material (history, geography, etc.), whose representatives consider onomastics to be their auxiliary discipline. However, proper names are words, and as such they belong primarily to linguistics. True, in the composition of the geographical or historical nomenclature there are many rare names that are almost never used in everyday practice. This leaves a special imprint on significant layers of onymy, making them the property of a narrow circle of specialists, but still not turning them into a geographical or historical category.

Along with rare (usually foreign) words, the onymy of each language includes frequency words created on the basis of the native language. The combination in one lexical category of words that are so dissimilar complicates onomastic studies. However, these dissimilar words also have common features that unite them into a class of proper names. The construction of a general theory of a proper name is the identification of general patterns inherent in a given lexical category, it is the search for the regular properties of names (o n o m a), regardless of the language in which they are created or used.

The division of sciences into “pure” and “applied” sciences is arbitrary, since it reflects not so much the problems of the sciences themselves as the topics that individual scientists are working on. Onomastics arose as an applied science, necessary for historians, geographers, ethnographers, literary critics, and did not go beyond the “auxiliary scientific discipline” while representatives of these specialties were engaged in it. When linguists joined the study of this problem, bringing with them the methods of structural and semantic analysis, onomastics emerged as an independent discipline that analyzes linguistic material using linguistic methods. Onomastics studies the basic laws of the history, development and functioning of proper names. Possessing its own material and methodology for studying it, onomastics cannot but be an independent discipline. Since it arose “at the junction” of sciences, it is distinguished by the extreme complexity of the subject of study. The linguistic component dominates in onomastics, not only because each name is a word that develops according to the laws of the language, but also because the information of each name is “extracted” using linguistic means.

However, if onomastics were limited to only a linguistic component, there would be no reason to single it out as a separate discipline. The specificity of the subject under study lies in the fact that it is linguistic at its core, it also includes ethnographic, historical, geographical, sociological, literary components that help the linguist to highlight the specifics of named objects and the traditions associated with their naming. In addition, data from archeology, the history of material and spiritual culture, biology, theology, philosophy, logic, psychology, etc. are used in onomastic studies. All this brings the onomastic problematics beyond the framework of linguistics alone and gives a certain independence to the complex of its components. Finding autonomy and turning in its known aspects into a “pure” science, onomastics continues to be auxiliary, applied for historians and geographers. To understand the relationship of onomastics with other sciences and its place as a complex, independent field of human knowledge, which has its own material, methods and research goals, it is necessary to confront it with those areas with which it is most closely connected.

The sciences, which have as an object of their study a person in all its manifestations, have a number of points of contact. Several international symposia were devoted to the theory and practice of cooperation between representatives of various disciplines studying both the physical structure, functioning and biological nature of the human body, as well as the spiritual activity of man and mankind. Since language is the first sign of humanity, this complex also includes linguistics. Since, as we noted above, all these disciplines are somehow connected with onomastics, coordination with the whole complex is necessary for onomastic research. However, onomastics does not exhaust “the field of its activity” with this. Proper names are given to any geographical objects, and not just those created by human hands; names are also given to objects located outside the globe. In addition, an indispensable component of onomastic research is logic, which in relation to the specified complex serves as a research method rather than an integral part.

Toponymy as a section of onomastics that studies geographical names (toponyms), their functioning, meaning and origin, structure, distribution area, development and change in time is of practical and scientific interest. The object of onomastic research is proper names of all kinds that are present in the vocabulary of any language, originally inherent in it or borrowed from other languages. The object of this study is the toponyms of the Amur region of foreign origin, namely their variety - hydronyms of foreign origin. Hydronyms are part of the onomastic space. The names of water bodies have been preserved for centuries and millennia, so hydronyms have a very high linguo-historical value. The analysis of hydronyms makes it possible to trace the ethnic and migration processes in the adjacent territory, the ways of settlement and the direction of migration of peoples, to identify contacts and systemic connections between different ethnic groups and the historical change of one ethnic group by another, to recreate the geographical conditions of the area, historical events, ethno-linguistic past, to present the ethno-cultural background.

Archaisms and dialectisms are persistently preserved in hydronyms, they often go back to the substratum languages of the peoples who lived in this territory in the past, which allows them to be used to determine the boundaries of the settlement of ethnic communities (for example, the Slavs in Europe or the Finno-Ugric peoples in the European part of Russia). In the literature, hydronyms are also called synonymous words of foreign origin. For example: *cupid* and *cupid* are hydronyms, since they mean the same thing, but they came to Russian from other languages.

The very content of the term hydronym can be considered in a broad and narrow sense. In a narrow sense, hydronyms are the names of rivers, in a broad sense they are the names of any water bodies (rivers, lakes, springs, seas, etc.). In this work, hydronyms are understood narrowly, i.e. the object of study is only a part of hydronyms, namely rivers. There is a classification of hydronyms by origin, namely, Slavic origin, non-Slavic (foreign language) origin, mixed (heterogeneous) hydronyms in origin. This paper considers hydronyms of a foreign language, namely Evenki origin. There is also a classification of hydronyms by object: pelagonims (names of seas), limnonyms (names of lakes, ponds), potamonims (names of rivers), gelonyms (proper names of swamps, wetlands).

Hydronyms are the most stable in linguistic terms, unlike other types of toponyms, they disappear less often, are replaced or change their appearance beyond recognition, and are practically not renamed. This is a universal toponymic object; they are present in all languages of the world. Hydronyms represent the most ancient “cultural layer” in toponymy. The names of large rivers, and sometimes even smaller water bodies, are very difficult to etymologize. First, because of their very ancient origin. Secondly, most of them are borrowings or substrata. Thirdly, they are often borrowed not where the object itself is located, so their etymology has to be restored based on the material of territorially distant languages. Fourthly, for the most part they are distinguished by the absence of an internal form, the originality of their sound appearance, and formal signs (i.e., special topoformants). Those. most of the hydronyms are not motivated or, the motives of motivation are strongly obscured. Finally, most of them have undergone phonetic adaptation and are currently used in a heavily modified Russified language.

Hydronyms, like other toponyms, are secondary, because contain some information about the worldview of the people who gave the names. The toponym is one of the linguistic universals. Toponyms are in the vocabulary of any language in the world. Therefore, it is possible to determine the significance of the course work. When studying toponyms in a particular language, a contribution is made to the general theory of the study of toponyms in linguistics. Despite the fact that proper names have always existed in all languages - this is one of the onomastic universals, onomastic research is one of the most developing branches of linguistics.

The composition of proper names in any language cannot be considered given once and for all. First of all, the repertoire of names is changing. Some names disappear from active use, others are created anew, others change their place in onomastics. But this is not the only thing: in different periods, people belonging to different cultures do not have the same range of onomastizable objects and phenomena, and, consequently, the composition of proper names is not the same in volume and in the number of categories included in it. Acquaintance with the worldview of people at the low stages of social development is striking in the absence of a clear distinction between animate and inanimate beings. And this creates additional opportunities for onomastization.

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