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PROBLEMS OF ORIGINS AND SEMANTICS
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the origins and semantics of geographical names, which accumulate information that indicates the history of an object indirectly. We know that the linguistic and extralinguistic components of the name's meaning suggest the motif of nomination, its history and modern perception, etymology, cultural and historical associations, and the popularity of the named realia, among other things. As a reason, the toponym's content is like a folded text that reveals itself as it is analyzed, revealing various facts about the thing. However, because proper names are usually the result of secondary nomination, the derivation of proper names should be discussed with caution. We also discuss the process of metonymy in the article. What does this name signify, exactly? As a result, toponyms must be examined not only from the standpoint of scientific etymology, but also from the standpoint of reflecting naive etymological searches (folk etymology) in the linguistic awareness.

Key words: *semantic, etymology, metonymy, toponyms, hydronym.*

Interest in proper names, including the origin of toponyms, is not unintended and is growing due to an increase in interest in the cultures and national consciousness of different peoples. At first sight, it seems that the name of a geographical object is just a label that only designates the object, performing a nominative function, i.e., calling him. V.G. Gak, analyzing all the available judgments about the semantics of proper names, decided after consideration that some researchers see lexical meaning only in the main parts of speech, rejecting its presence in proper names, functional words, and interjections. "The language also has individual designations-proper names." Due to this singularity, proper names do not have all the characteristics inherent in common nouns ... which is manifested in the peculiarities of the use of the article, the category of number, the limited ability to combine definitions with them, etc. In view of this, proper names belong to the peripheral subclasses of nouns. However, every word, in his opinion, has a lexical meaning. The difference lies in the way it is realized, in the degree of independence and emphasis... [Gak, 2000, s. 58]. In one of the theoretical works on onomastics, the meaning of proper names is interpreted "as a compound-

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complex in which information about the word is intertwined with information about the named object" [Superanskaya, 1986, s. 104]. The linguistic (information about the word) and extralinguistic (information about the object) components of the meaning of the name suggest the motif of the nomination, its history and modern perception, etymology, cultural and historical associations, the popularity of the named realia, etc.

In this way, geographical names accumulate information that indirectly indicates both the history of an object, its geographical location, and distinctive features, as well as significant cultural and political events associated with them, such as natural disasters, people's rulers, conquerors, etc. Historical and ethnocultural information that can be obtained by analyzing one or another toponym becomes reliable only as a result of its etymological analysis. The content of the toponym is a kind of folded text, which is revealed as it is studied. Various pieces of information about the object are obtained. However, it should be remembered that proper names are mostly born as a result of the secondary nomination. Therefore, one should speak with great care about the etymology of proper names. For example, let's take the geographical name "Olenti". This toponym refers to:

• a river in the Zhaiyk basin that flows through the Syrym and Akzhaik districts of the West Kazakhstan region;

• a river in the Irtysh basin, which flows through the territory of Akmola, Karagandy, Pavlodar regions;

• a village in Yereymentau district of Akmola region;

• a village in the Syrym district of the West Kazakhstan region;

• the railway station of the Yereymentau district of the Akmola region.

Which of the above is primary and which is secondary?

There is a concentration in the toponymic nomination, which is well described in toponymy: this is the process of transonymization, i.e., the transition of a name from one category to another, or metonymy, the transition of a name from one object to other errors of contiguity, definition. "The transfer of the name occurs between objects subject to wide distribution: morbidity, situationally, structurally, historically, etc." [Yermoshkina, 2000, ss. 40-41].

The research of the names and their history allows us to say that the names of the rivers are primary, the names of the villages and the railway station are secondary, arising based on the process of metonymy. Metonymy is one type of human cognitive activity that forms the basis of the nominative process since the names themselves do not occur. Metonymy allows you to save time, makes it possible to show the relationship between objects, and shows the logical connection between objects: "metonymy... a combination of semantic contiguity (found in the phenomena of words, exciting objects, and phenomena, etc. connections) and positional similarity (the setting of one of the semantically following linguistic elements to the usually occupied second place). [Birih, 1995, ss. 40-41].

As follows, the reference literature gives the following description: the Olenti river in the Irtysh basin begins in the Niyaz and Yereymentau mountains and flows into the

Auliekol lake. This name of the river is since many herbs grow on its banks (drooping sedge, early sedge), i.e., this is a Kazakh name in the meaning of "a land with Olenti." It also indicates that the name is formed from the ancient Turkic word "olen + tu", which literally represents the meaning of "olentau" (https://ulagat.com/2021/02/09/%D3%A9%D0%BB%D0%B5%D2%A3%D1%82%D1%96-2/).

This text clearly shows that one needs to be careful even if the name seems semantically transparent. The question arises: what this name means: the land that abounds with this grass, or the river near which this grass grows, or the mountain that abounds with this grass. At one time, L.V.Uspenski noted: "It is not enough for a person to understand what this or that word means." The man, moreover, wants to know why it means this and not something else entirely. Take it out and put it to him – how each word got its meaning, where it came from "[Uspenski, 2009, s. 9].

A more accurate answer to this question In addition, it follows the law, which also allows more revealing the semantics or another toponym. In the Kazakh (wider-Turkic) toponymy, names with the final ty/t/dy/d/ly/li are numerous, widespread and belong to the group of toponyms that characterize the toponymic picture of the world of the Kazakhs, precisely oriented in space and able to mark all the features of the area in titles.

For example, in the name Olenti, in our opinion, the affix-ti semantically means "abundance, plurality". It is not a contracted form of the word tau (tag) in the meaning of "mountain". The ancient Turks and Kazakhs already had this word in their lexicon and could give the name Olentau, which does not contradict the meaning if this grass grew in the mountains. However, it was important for the nominator to show that in this place and area (river), this grass grows in large quantities. The same version can be applied to the name Almaty, which has several etymological versions, one of which suggests that Almaty means "apple mountain". Along these lines, according to E. Koichubaev, "we have the following geographical names ending in formants ty (ti) meaning "mountain" and sy (si) meaning "river": Almaty – "apple mountain"; Arkharty – "argali mountain";... Arshaty – "juniper mountain"; Buguty – "deer mountain"; Esikti – "door-mountain"; Karagayty – "pine mountain"; Mointy – "neck-shaped mountain"; Zhamantas – "sloping mountain"; Ölenti – "meadow mountain"; Tobylgyty – "tavolzhnaya mountain"; Shiderty – "clay mountain"; Lepsi – "violent or swift river"; Samsa – "gloomy river", etc. (Source: http://imja.name/arkhivonomastiki/kojchubaev1969.shtml)

As Ageeva R.A. noted, "… of all toponymic names, hydronyms are the most conservative, less prone to erosion of time" and [Ageeva, 1985, s. 3] and can include in a conserved form elements that have now disappeared from the language. This applies to such names as Almaty, Ayudy, in which the final endings are ancient Turkic affixes.

When considering proper names, extralinguistic factors are relevant, without which the emergence and existence of an onym is impossible. Extralinguistic features are essential for revealing the meaning of a name because they are obligatory for every denotation bearing this name. For example, Almaty city, Nur-Sultan city, Taldykorgan city, these are specific city names identified by:

• specific location on the territory of Kazakhstan, i.e. the presence of the taxonomic seme "coordinates";

• social status, which is a taxonomic term for "social parameters";

• origin is a taxonomic stem that means "history of origin and formation."

In addition, such connotative terms as "southern capital", "ex-capital of Kazakhstan", "scientific and cultural center" in relation to Almaty or "granary of Kazakhstan", "center of virgin lands", "northern capital" in relation to Nur-Sultan.

However, each of these names, according to a common administrative-territorial feature and correlation with the denotation, belongs to a certain category of toponyms – astyonyms – and has the denotative meaning "city".

The poet and composer Kusmiliya Nurkasym, in her article "Ancient Semipalatinsk-the City of the Ancient Turks" ("Kone Semey – Ezhelgi Turki kalasy"), writes about this toponym: "The word "Semey" is often interpreted as a Kazakh transcription of the word "Semipalatinsk" (as öskemen Ust-Kamenogorsk). We need to know that in the first quarter of the XIII century, when Genghis Khan appeared in the middle part of the Irtysh, this city was a busy center of trade with seven high sanctuaries on the banks of the Irtysh. If "Naimankure" was renamed "Chingistau" ("Shyngystau") in honor of Genghis Khan, then there was Semeytau. It is very unfortunate that we do not want the name of the mountain, located 50 km from the city, to be closer to the name of the city. According to researchers of the Turkic heritage, in the ancient Turkic language, the word "semei" means "a place for offering prayers and worship" [Nurkasym, 2014].

This conclusion, certainly, is an example of cabinet etymology. The toponym Semipalatinsk has a documented history of origin and a transparent etymology. The word palata (originally in the form of polat) was used in Russian already in the 10th and 11th centuries. It is repeatedly noted in the Tale of Bygone Years (records relating to events that took place in 6415/907, 6479/971 and other years) that it means "house, palace, church" [Sreznevsky, 2/2, 1122]. As G.N. Potanin writes, "at the end of the last century, the famous traveler Pallas found only the ruins of Kalmyk buildings, known among the people as "seven chambers"; in honor of them, the city was named Semipalatinsk" [Potanin].

In fairness, it should be noted that in the extremely eastern, near the Irtysh part of the Kazakh hills, 40 km from the city of Semey (formerly Semiplatinsk), there is the Semeytau mountain range, known for its favorable nature and rich mounds of the Bronze and Iron Age.

It is important to analyze toponyms not only from the point of view of scientific etymology but also in terms of reflecting naive etymological searches (folk etymology) in the linguistic consciousness. Folk etymology is contained in folklore, in toponymic legends; it can reflect both real events behind toponyms, and fictional ones, inspired by the external form of a geographical name. Gradually blurring in the memory of the people and undergoing restructuring due to new events that have an associative connection with the past, in the linguistic consciousness of generations distant from

real events, folk etymology functions as a "reverse reflection" of the folklore text. It is important to understand what is behind this or that folk etymology, what its social causes and consequences are, and what cultural meanings it contains. In addition to scientific and folk etymology, so-called cabinet (false etymological) studies of the origin of toponyms, or the disclosure of their meanings that are not scientific, have become widespread in recent years. In this regard, it is necessary to reasonably refute these unscientific views that falsify etymology as a science [Madiyeva et al., 2019, ss. 140–161].

Regarding the origin of the toponym, Verny still has many versions and legends. The history of the city began with the strong, called by the Cossacks Verny. Many indigenous people believe that the Cossacks wanted to underline their loyalty to the tsar by this name, or for his commitment to the Orthodox faith. There is also a version that the fortification was named in honor of one of the daughters of Kolpakovsky. However, as Alois Nazarov notes, Kolpakovsky began to serve in Semirechye only in 1858, when Replying Verny already existed, and there was no daughter named Vera in the city's chief.

Most likely, the fortress was named in honor of the holy martyr Vera, since the holy martyrs Vera, Nadezh, Lyubov, and their mother Sophia are patrons of the seven world Cossacks. This version is indirectly confirmed by the fact that in the nearest neighborhood to the city of Verny, the villages of Nadezhdins grew up: Kaya (now the city of Issyk), Lyubavinskaya (Kaskelen), and Sofia (Tal-gar). In 1921, Verny was renamed Alma-Ata. (https://ladstas.livejournal.com/348777.html, Forbidden History of Kazakhstan).

The purpose of any toponym is not only the nomination of an object but also the preservation and transmission of various types of information about it. The process of nomination is controlled by a person, and it is his cognitive and nominative abilities that determine the features of toponyms. Consideration of geographical names is productive in the context of a person's cultural, historical, social, and cognitive experiences. Toponyms reveal the experience of a person in the perception and knowledge of both the real and the virtual world. In the oral folk art of different peoples, there is a special genre called toponymic legends (or legends), usually based on folk etymology. The rich imagination of native speakers builds texts full of tragic or romantic details about the origin of the name of a river, city, or locality based on accidental consonance or incorrect division of the toponym into its component parts. Philologists should not ignore this part of linguistic culture, since it reflects the creative potential of folk linguistic consciousness, the idea of a native speaker about the formation of toponymic space. Toponymic legends "demonstrate a complex interweaving of historical, proper linguistic, and intratextual factors" [Berezovich, 1999, s. 128].

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