



TOPONYMY AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE THREE SCIENCES

Abdirova Gulzada Sarsenbayevna

Karakalpak State University Named After Berdakh. Department of

Archeology. Trainee Teacher

e-mail: gabdirova90@gmail.com

Annotation

The article states that toponymy is an integral scientific discipline that is at the junction and uses data from three fields of knowledge: geography, history and linguistics.

Keywords: Toponymy, history, geography, ethnography, linguistics, toponymic dictionary.

Introduction

Toponymy is an integral scientific discipline, which is at the junction and uses the data of three fields of knowledge: geography, history and linguistics. The totality of toponyms in any territory constitutes its toponymy.

Currently, scientific research is developing most dynamically and fruitfully at the junction of several fields of knowledge. This is the case with toponymy, the science of geographical and historical names. As a branch of knowledge, it has been actively developing for a long time, but the interest in it from both scientists and ordinary people is not diminishing, and is constantly growing.

Names or toponyms are the most important component of geography, history and linguistics. They are a kind of a link between a person and a geographical object, not only indicating its place on the surface of the planet, but also giving interesting and often very important scientific information.

Historical and geographical names are an expression of people's mentality, their worldview, culture, everyday life, customs, psychological state. They are an integral part of modern civilization and represent a unique toponymic environment, without which the existence of mankind is impossible. In this context, we can quote Academician D. S. Likhachev: "Historical and geographical names - the names of our cities and towns, streets and squares, outposts and slobodas - are the monument of spiritual culture of a special kind. The toponymy of the people is a collective work of the national genius... They serve as landmarks in time and space, creating a historical and cultural image of the country.



The sources of the study of toponyms are divided into four main groups. The first group of sources includes materials on the toponymy of the region (handbooks, dictionaries, cartographic materials, articles on the etymology and history of the origin of individual geographical names and their groups). Geographers, historians, linguists, and ethnographers were interested in toponymy.

The second group of sources includes materials on the history of the development of the region. This group of sources is quite extensive and is represented by a significant number of works. These works consider the nature of the development of the region, historical events, the history of geographical and geological discoveries, historical features of cultural interactions in the region. However, it should be noted that this group of sources practically does not consider the relationship between the history of regional toponymy and the history of exploration and development of the region.

The third group of sources includes materials on the theory of toponymy and onomastics. It includes works on ethnotoponymy, anthropological and culturological theories of proper names, as well as a considerable body of research on linguistic problems of regional toponymy. On the basis of all these studies, a comprehensive (cultural-historical) and substrate classification of toponyms was developed, and the place of toponymy in the system of scientific knowledge was considered. In this group it is possible to note the profiling (specific scientific orientation) of studies and a small number of works of integrative or comprehensive nature.

The fourth group of sources - reference materials on geography, history of development, philology, and ethnography. This group of sources is the most extensive. Geographical names, their meaning, origin and history have recently aroused great interest. This is evidenced by the appearance of fundamental research on their study, creation of toponymic dictionaries, introduction of a special course on toponymy into university curricula (at faculties of geography, history and philology). Linguists, historians, ethnographers, geographers, cartographers, and local historians study toponymy.

When comparing the geographical names given in historical documents with their modern transcription and pronunciation, one can notice how the same word changes. It is not uncommon that a name incorrectly written down by the first cartographers, then passed on in a distorted form in documents and oral speech. Geographical names surround people everywhere. The famous geographer V.A. Zhuchkevich said: "It is impossible to imagine the life of modern society without geographical names. They are ubiquitous and always accompany our thinking from early childhood. Everything on earth has an address, this address begins with the place where a person was born. The home village, the street where he lives, the city, the country - everything has its



own name. Daily reading of newspapers, classical literature, the study of cultural history and the development of science lead to a new and ever expanding stock of geographical names in our language.

Thus, geographical names reflect not only the history, natural conditions of a given area, linguistic features of the people, but may also contain the toponyms of other territories.

"Words-toponyms (proper names naming geographical objects) among other layers of vocabulary are distinguished in languages by a special stability and carry a kind of historical information, which has been repeatedly pointed out by modern toponymists: "The comparative study of geographical names is of great scientific interest and allows solving many questions of ancient history, paleolinguistics, prehistoric past of man. A careful analysis of geographical names often provides the geographer, geologist, botanist, zoologist, economist, ethnographer with interesting material for judging landscapes, mineral deposits, prevailing plant groups, game animals, the dominant type of economy, human settlement".

Toponymy is an auxiliary scientific discipline that studies geographical names and is one of the sections of historical geography. It allows to solve the issues of spelling of geographical names in a more reasonable way. Because geographical names are a part of language vocabulary, subject to certain linguistic patterns, toponymy is a part of linguistics. Toponyms are specific addresses of geographical objects, therefore, as geographical names, they are a kind of language of geography. Geographical names are stable and are preserved for a long time, becoming a kind of historical monuments. In this regard, toponymy to a certain extent belongs to history and source study. Issues of toponymy are important for school geography. Studying a map and memorizing geographical objects is difficult for students. Explaining a name correctly, showing its meaning and origin makes it easier to remember and learn, which is possible with the help of toponymy. Modern cartography cannot do without place names. Therefore, it is important to accurately represent and reproduce all place names. The connection between language and history lies in etymology, which deals with finding out the origin of the meaning of a word. For etymological research, first of all, it is necessary to determine the linguistic affiliation of place names. Very often the names cannot be solved even with a thorough etymological analysis. This is explained by the fact that many names are very ancient. Sometimes very little remains of the original form of a word. Therefore, the linguist in the course of etymological research is forced to refer to historical science.

Geographical names have their prehistory in the lexicon and socio-economic conditions of life, and their emergence is not accidental. However, after their



emergence, they in turn give rise to other toponyms formed on their basis. Often the primary name itself disappears, but the derivatives from it persist for a long time.

The role of toponyms in historical science can be compared to the role of the remnants of material culture. On the basis of a few data of individual words complex constructions are made, which restore the lost links of history.

All geographical names can be classified according to the historical principle, according to the time and history of their origin. For historical geography, names can indicate changes in natural conditions and economic and geographic changes.

Historical toponymy studies the origin of geographical terms, clarifies the location of nonexistent settlements, changes and replacement of some terms by others. Thus, historical toponymy is essentially a very important part of historical geography.

The important role of toponymy for historical science is due to the historical conditionality of geographical names. Each name is a kind of historical document or monument. The historical conditionality is manifested primarily in the semantic meaning of the word. Thus, each historical era is characterized by its "toponymic vocabulary". This vocabulary of any area tells a lot to a historian, regional studies and geographer. It is noticed that the areas with completely clear sense of the names of the settlements are inhabited relatively recently, and the names have not yet had time to change. The areas of ancient settlement or inhabited in the past by other peoples are characterized by the prevalence of obscure names, altered or derived from obsolete words. Geographic names often allow to delineate the habitats of certain peoples and ethnic groups in the past. Toponymy is closely related to ethnography, a discipline of history. For the ethnographer it serves as a source of knowledge of the people - it studies the whole complex of the material and spiritual culture of peoples. Thus, toponymy is based on several disciplines that are necessary for the development of the study of geographical, historical names, as well as for the science as a whole.

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