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**LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL APPROACH TO STUDYING TOMONYMS OF THE UK**

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*Abstract.* This article examines British proper place names using the example of the toponymic system of England. Its analysis reveals the main toponymic layers related to different historical epochs, peoples and languages, and also testifies to the natural features of the territory. The author concludes that toponyms function not only as landmarks of the area, created by nature and as a result of human creative activity, but also as cultural, historical and social formations, testifying to the time of the development of the territory and the various peoples who inhabited it.

*Keywords:* English toponyms, onomastics, etymology, linguocultural analysis, geographical names, culture, formation, proper names, approach.

In the 18th century, Wilhelm von Humboldt's ideas about the role of language in the study of culture, in the formation of a picture of the world in the minds of native speakers were expressed. Currently, there has been a great interest in the new science of cultural linguistics, a science that studies the relationship between language and culture. It is impossible to learn a language without knowing its culture. In the process of the development of the English language, proper names also changed, the reason for this was the seizure of territory by other peoples, the natural characteristics of these lands. The vocabulary of each language contains words that are incomprehensible to the speakers of this language, since the structure of these words does not lend itself to more than one operating model in this language. The science of etymology deals with the analysis of the origin of words. Etymology is a branch of linguistics that studies the formation of the vocabulary of a language, the history of the emergence of a word, its original form, meaning and changes over time.

Onomastics (from the Greek - the art of giving names) is a linguistic science that studies proper names, their etymology and use. One of the main areas of onomastics is toponymy. This is a science that studies the geographical names of localities, their history, meaning, structure. Toponymy is closely related to culture, as it deals with the issues of the historical past of peoples, their boundaries of settlement.

In the study of toponyms, the main role is played by the linguoculturological approach, which reveals the etymology of each geographical name, reveals the features of a particular society, its national and cultural specifics through linguistic forms. Linguocultural information is contained in all geographic names. Due to their stability and durability, toponyms acquire the ability to preserve and transmit it, acting, as D. Kristall notes, a unique source of knowledge about the history of society, its structure, customs and values of its peoples [2, p. 34].

Modern English place names are not only of native English origin, but the languages of the Celts, Vikings, Normans, Romans contributed to the development of Great Britain toponymy. In accordance with this origin, several groups of toponyms can be distinguished:

1. Toponyms of Celtic origin. The Celtic language was characterized by a variety of dialects;

- place names of British origin (Glasgow - "green hollow", Leeds - "river district";
- toponyms of Welsh origin, for example, Cardiff - "fort on the river Taff";
- toponyms of Pictish origin (Their number is very small, and they are an indicator

of the distribution of settlements of the Pictish who lived in the north of Scotland.) For example, Pitcastle - "share owned by the castle";

- place names of Gaelic origin, which consist of Irish and Scottish names, for example, Douglas - "black stream".

Place names with the formants wal-, bret-, bel-, dun-, ros- also have Scandinavian origin: Walton - 'fenced-in settlement of Britons', Rosliston " fenced-in place in the forest.

In English toponymy, there are place names in which, as a rule, the initial element is Celtic, and the final element is English. For example, the origin of the name of the village Glympton is associated with the nearby river Glyme of Celtic origin, the right-hand component -ton "manor, farm" is English. The name of the village, Taynton, probably also comes from a stream. Presumably, the toponym refers to a Celtic word associated with the Welsh taen "sprinkling, irrigation", one of the few river names that mean "flowing water" [8, 132]. The suffix -ton in this case indicates "village". The name of the forest Tangle Hall "forest by the river Teign" uses the same initial element of Celtic origin taen [4, 337]

2. Place names of Latin origin. The Roman occupation had little impact on place names. However, some Latin elements can be found in the names, for example chester / caster meaning "camp, fort". For example, let's take Doncaster - "Roman fort on the river". A few Latin borrowings in the toponymy of the region are defined by such formants as -castra, -ford, -port, villa (-ville, - villae): Chesterfield, Ashford-in-the-Water, Alport, Woodville.

To date, only two names have survived in England, which are completely Latin: Catterick (North Yorkshire) and Speen (Berkshire) [7, 20-21]. The rest of the toponyms are Latinized forms of ancient names in a significantly modified form. Moreover, the population of the British Isles did not speak Latin, but Breton, which belongs to the Celtic group of the Indo-European family of languages, which later split into Cornish and Welsh.

3. Place names of Anglo-Saxon origin. The Anglo-Saxons ruled the British Isles for a long time and this influenced the formation of place names. For example, Liverpool - "muddy pond", Oxford (Oxford) - "ford for cattle". You can also consider the patronymic suffix -ing, denoting the name of the genus / tribe: Dinting; suffix -ton meaning 'enclosure, fence, village, farm with services': Brampton; suffix -ham, denoting a manor: High Needham, etc .;

The largest concentration of place names dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period (approximately the end of the 6th - the beginning of the 7th centuries) is observed along the Thames River and the oldest road, Icknield Way, along which, presumably, the Anglo-Saxons came from the northeast. Anglo-Saxon place names reflect the formants: -ing - suffix of belonging or genitive, ham "dwelling, manor, village", hampton, ton "farm with services, village", wic "dairy farm", borough (bergh, burh) "fortification" ... Old English names are based on nouns: clif, cumb, ende, ford, sand, thorn, wella, which can be correlated with modern words cliff, hollow, end of an estate or district, ford, sand, thorn-tree, well, respectively.

One of the most ancient and common formants in English place names is -ing, which dates back to the early period of the Anglo-Saxon settlements. This patronymic suffix is used in the names of geographical objects that were named after their inhabitants or the descendants of some early settler. There are several options for using the -ing formant in toponyms. In its simplest form at the end of a name, this suffix, when attached to a proper name, denotes a son or other descendant of the person (son of, descendant of) who created this name, that is, in fact, it is used as the equivalent of the genitive case.



For example, the name of Alfred the Great appears in documents in the form *Ælfred Æpelwulfing* "Alfred son of the wulf" [1, 63–64].

Toponyms of the period under study contain the names of the natural landscape, emphasizing the separately taken characteristics of geographic objects. In this regard, there is a high productivity and a variety of geographical terms for the following realities: valley (-bottom, -coombe, -denu, -slæd), brook (-æwelm, -broc, -ea, -lacu, -rith, -rithig, -spring, -welle), hill (-beorg, Clif-, -cliff (e), -dūn, -hill, -hlāw, -ness) and others. This unique feature is characteristic of Anglo-Saxon place names, in contrast to modern English, where fewer words are used to denote natural objects.

4. Toponyms of Scandinavian origin. These include names of Norman and Danish origin. (The Danes were the conquerors of England while the Normans conquered Scotland.) These names reflect the broad Scandinavian contribution to the history of the settlement of the islands. To illustrate this group, you can take the city of Darby - "animal village". The most common suffixes of Scandinavian origin are -by - 'manor', -thorpe - 'secondary settlement', -brough, bury - 'fortified place': Derby, Cutthorpe, Sudbury Sudbury.

The Scandinavians brought with them a set of personal names that were used for the names of villages and secondary settlements. In many names, the proper name was the first element of the toponym, and the geographical term was the second: Dunthorp "Dunna settlement". The Scandinavians, like the Anglo-Saxons, used a similar naming system.

The introduction of the Scandinavian word *brunnr* by the Danes contributed to the consolidation of the modern formant -bourne "spring, key, brook" in English toponymy. For example, the names of the fields come from a stream flowing near these objects: East Hagbourne, West Hagbourne.

Thus, the Scandinavian influence on the geographical names of the county is very small. Despite the predominant distribution of Danish names in the Danlo region, several place names with the stable element -thorp can be found in the northwest of Oxfordshire, which once again underlines the expansion of Danish borders through the emergence of new colonies. This is evidenced by the names themselves, indicating the exact location of the settlements. A small number of Danish components function in simple, compound and conditionally segmented names.

5. Toponyms of Norman-French origin. This group is characterized by mixed origins: Ridgmont - "ridge of the mountain". It should be noted that these names are few.

History is important in the formation of place names in Great Britain. It is the place names that reflect this history of the people, their language and culture. Toponymy of Great Britain shows how rich the history of the peoples of this country is, emphasizes many dialects of the English language.

Changing under the influence of extralinguistic factors, the toponymic system, at the same time, strives to maintain stability, which is manifested in the formation of structural, semantic and etymological types throughout each historical epoch.

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