Секция «Имя собственное в современных лингвистических исследованиях»

К вопросу о современной топонимике Германии и Великобритании: славянские и англо-саксонские влияния

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Toponymy as a branch of onomastics represents a topical scientific line of humanitarian research. The potentiality of studying toponymical peculiarities of linguo-cultural areas is used in many fields of scientific knowledge: historical geography, linguistics, linguodidactics, sociolinguistics, theory and history of literature [3; p. 153].

The research aspect of the work is focused on studying modern toponyms of Germany developed on the territories of historical and geographical neighborhood of ancient Slavonic and Germanic tribes. British denominations derived from Proto-Germanic roots and brought to the British Isles in the 5-11th cent. by Anglo-Saxon tribes are also examined. This detailed analysis (which is not frequent in modern scientific research) is based on the cartographic exploration of toponyms of Federal States of Berlin and Saxony (Sachsen) (Slavonic borrowings) and practical (cartographic) research of English names of Germanic stock, found in contemporary Great Britain in the areas of Manchester, Nottingham and the Suffolk county (Anglo-Saxon influences).

Toponyms classified according to the type of the object (hydronyms, oronyms, oikonyms, hodonyms, agoronyms, dromonyms, urbaronyms) (A. V. Superanskaja's classification) [5; p. 6] are characteristic of all communicative strong languages: Russian, English, German, French, Spanish and Italian.

Both objective information about the denotatum and subjective emotional reaction to the object or denomination are relevant for the semantic perception of the proper name [4; p. 140]. In addition to the most important onomastic terms "a toponym" and "a geographical name" V.N. Kalutskov introduces and works out a new idea of a "geoconcept" reflecting a principally new situation in geography connected to the "cultural turn" and the informational revolution and making a complete triad of interconnected terms [1; p. 100]. It is obvious that the theory of a concept attaches a new shade to toponymic research and makes it possible to consider geographical denominations from point of view of the discursive conditions of their historic and cultural adaptations.

Contemporary native speakers of German distinguish toponyms of Slavonic origin by the presence of suffixes typical only of Slavonic denominations in their morphological structure: -ica/-nica/-ovica, -jane, -(i)n, -ov -ava -nik -sk.

As a result of the practical (cartographic) analysis of Slavonic toponymy found on the territory of modern Germany a considerable number of denominations characterized by Slavonic influence was distinguished.

The following root and affixal morphemes were determined as the most frequent ones: Sprjew - (slav. Спрева, g. Spree), Dahm- (slav. Dembrowa, g. Dahme), Lautz- (slav. Лужица, g. Lautitz), Lob- (rus Люб-, g. Lobauer Wasser), Lauch- (slav. Лауша, g. Laucha), Bell- (rus. белый, g. Bellwitz), -ow /-ov, (g. Dolgowitz), -in (g. Berlin), -nik/nick (g. Kopenick).

In turn, the practical (cartographic) analysis of Germanic toponyms used on the territory of contemporary Great Britain allows to discern significant Anglo-Saxon influences in the morphemic structure of these geographical denominations. Many names of different localities and peculiarities of the landscape can be traced back to Anglo-Saxon roots [2; p. 130-132] [6; p. 79]. Contrary to German toponyms, which take a limited number of Slavonic components, British denominations borrow considerably more wordbuilding elements of Anglo-Saxon stock - root and affixational morphemes: -ham (g. -heim, eng. Gotham, Nottingham), -stan / ston (g. -stein / der Stein, eng. Barnstone, Selston), folk (g. volk / das Volk, eng. Norfolk, Suffolk), -ing / -ung (eng. Hickling, Framlingham), bourn (eng. Ashbourne, Melbourne), -ton (eng. Carlton, Denton).

In relation to Anglo-Saxon influences we can speak about a bigger variety of morphemic adaptations when compared to Slavonic borrowings in German toponymy which can be conditioned to the fact that both the German and the English language belong to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European linguistic family.

As a result of the detailed linguistic and cultural analysis toponyms become a source of knowledge both about the history and culture of the nation and the grammatical peculiarities of the Russian, German and English languages.

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