

NATIONAL-LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH
TOPONYMIC COMPONENT

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights the national-linguistic features of phraseological units with toponymic component. Toponyms differ in some aspects from other groups of words in terms of some internal features related to the daily material and spiritual condition of society, economic life, dreams and aspirations. At the same time, the toponyms will be more preserved ancient phonetic, lexical and morphological elements specific to the national language. The natural geographical conditions (relief) of the place, the ethnic composition of the population, the occupations and professions of the people, mineral resources, historical figures and events are the main sources of the formation of toponyms.

Keywords: *toponyms, phraseological units, concept, context, culture*

Toponymy is an important resource in the study of language history, historical lexicology, dialectology, etymology, and culture of a particular country, as some toponyms remain unchanged without changing archaisms and dialectisms, often relying on substrate languages of peoples living in a particular area.

The study of toponyms helps to revive the features of the historical past of peoples, to define the boundaries of their location, to describe the areas of past distribution of languages, cultural and economic centers, trade routes and geography. The Bible and the toponymic units found in it are very important in the study of Western culture. In addition, myths and works of art are also major sources of toponymic phraseology. It is useful to study them in small groups:

Religious: *from Dan to Bersheba* - Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, **from Dan even to Beersheba**, with the land of Gilead, unto the Lord in Mizpeh»¹. *God's Acre* (evf. Qabr, Eight little O'Caseys planted safe in God's acre. (S. O'Casey, 'Sunset and Evening Star', 'Deep in Devon'), *God's (own) country upon* (A look at Egypt, then to India, and across to China and Japan, and back through that great sprawling America — God's own country, didn't they call it! (I. Galsworthy, 'The Silver Spoon', part III, ch. XI), *spoil the Egyptians* (etim. Exo-dus XII, 36; 'How does a man of your strict principles reconcile yourself to cheat to revenue?' 'It's a mere spoiling o' the Egyptians,' replied Andrew. (W. Scott, 'Rob Roy', ch. XVIII), *can the Ethiopian change his skin?* (Freeman: You've got precious little out of life so far. Why don't you try a change? You've got a chance that you'll never have again... Rose: Can the Ethiopian... change his Skin? I'm not made like you, Tom. I must go on as I've begun. (W. S. Maugham, 'Smith', act IV)

Mythological: *between Scylla and Charybdis* - «между Сциллой и Харибдой» (в безвыходном положении); *Egyptian darkness* - тьма Египетская - густая, беспросветная тьма; *garden of Eden* (etim. Genesis II, 13), *the law of the Medes and Persians* (etim. Daniel VI, 8, 12), *Paris Is worth a mass*;

Historical: *the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton* (The public schools of England breed all that' is least likeable in the English Character. The battle of Waterloo was no more won on the playing fields of Eton * than the Battle of El Alamein was won by the League for Distressed Gentlewomen ('Tribune', Febr. 9,

¹ Суперанская А.В. Что такое топонимика? М., 1985.

1962) *a depressed area* (The territory of England, which suffered from the financial crisis in 1929-1933), *perfidious Albion* ((one of the historical names of Great Britain, first used in the poem of the Marquis de Ximen *Botany Bay* (I am sure they should be arrested, crib-bed, tried, and brought in for Botany Bay, at the very least. (Ch. Bronte, 'Shirley', ch. XXXII), *Merrie* (ёку Merry) *England* (The point about Merrie England is that it was about the most un-merrie period in the history of the country.), *the Islands of the Blessed*, all's quiet along (ёки on) the Potomac phraseology that emerged in America during the war years);

Literary: the back of beyond (Diana. Would you believe it? Dorothy thinks it's central. When I tell her it's the back of beyond, she says, My dear, what are you talking about? It's only twelve minutes by tube from Piccadilly Circus. (W. S. Maugham, 'The Bread- Winner', sc. 1), *From China to Peru*, *The City of Brotherly Love* (Senator George Wharton Pepper is a devout Episcopalian, leader of the church of J. P. Morgan and Company in the City of Brotherly Love. (U. Sinclair, 'TheGoose-Step', ch. XXII), *The dark continent* (H. M. Stenінінг 'Through the Dark Continent, Based on 1878, it is used in reference to Africa)

Below we found it necessary to consider the lingvoculturological analysis of several phraseological units: *Garden of Eden or Garden of God* - Etymologically, this phrase, which is religious in origin, occurs several times in the Bible as a reference to Paradise on Earth, including Genesis 2-13 and Ezekiel 28-31. According to reports, the location of this park today corresponds to the southern Mesopotamian regions of the Persian Gulf. This toponym component phraseological unit prof. According to Kunin's classification it is a phraseological compound, and according to VV Vinogradov's classification it is a phraseological collocation.

Can the Ethiopian change his skin?

"Freeman. ...You've got precious little out of life so far. Why don't you try a change? You've got a chance that you'll never have again...

Rose. Can the Ethiopian... change his Skin? I'm not made like you, Tom. I must go on as I've begun. "(W. S. Maugham, 'Smith', act IV)

The origin of the above phrase also goes back to a religious source - the Bible, which was used by Jeremiah to mean "it is impossible to change certain things" and has several equivalents in English. The toponym uses the word Ethiopian in the phrase, and the word provides national-cultural information about those indigenous peoples and their way of life in the Bible.

" From China to Peru" - this term is used all over the world. As you can see, two toponyms are used in this phraseological unit.

"The Queen City of the Pacific " -(Coast) in this phraseological unit refers to the city of San Francisco as the queen of the Pacific. An example of a specific metaphor is a phraseological unit with a hydrographic toponym component.

" the New England of the West-"The American state is meant as the new England of the West.

As you know, stylistics uses the data of lexicology, grammar, phonetics, semasiology, phraseology, etc. However, unlike these disciplines, it does not deal with the elements of language as such, but with their expressive potential in the context - their stylistic function. The stylistic function is defined as the expressive potential of the interaction of linguistic means in the text, which ensures the transfer, along with the subject-logical content of the text, of the expressive, emotional, evaluative, figurative and aesthetic information embedded in it.² While these areas of

2 Суперанская А.В., Подольская Н.В., Васильева Н.В. Общая терминология: Терминологическая деятельность. М., 1993.

linguistics study the entire system of linguistic means of the corresponding level as a whole, stylistics considers their expressive qualities, their functioning and interaction in conveying thoughts and feelings in a given text and, consequently, their role in the ideological impact of the text on the reader. This refers to the integral personality of the reader, and not just his logical thinking.

It may seem that the word "function" in linguistics has many meanings. Compare: "stylistic function", "language function", "functional style". Indeed, the referential attribution of these terms is different. But the point here is that "function" is a word of broad meaning, subject to refinement in these combinations. An invariant of all its uses is the concept of the purpose and dependence of the nature of the use of one or another element in the system of the whole.

Among the many proposed definitions, the most successful is the definition of the English scientist M. Halliday, who understands the function as the role that certain classes of words perform in the structure of units of a higher level.

The study revealed that all TPU, being stylistically limited, perform certain stylistic functions. The understanding of the stylistic function considered here follows from the decoding of the understanding of style as an expression of second-order information accepted in stylistics. An important role in the implementation of the stylistic function is played by emotional, figurative, evaluative connotations of phraseological units. Thus, analyzing the functioning of phraseological units, we can distinguish such stylistic functions of phraseological units in the context of a work of art as:

characterological function;

emotional-expressive amplification function;

the function of creating imagery;

the function of creating an ironic and humorous effect;

However, before considering each function separately, it should be said that such a classification is to some extent conditional, since all these functions can be closely intertwined and we can observe several functions at once in the use of one phraseological unit. Nevertheless, for the purpose of a more detailed consideration and scientific description of the functioning of phraseological units, it seems possible to determine the leading function that one or another phraseological unit performs.

As the analysis of the language material showed, toponymic phraseological units represent national and cultural concepts directly related to English culture:

"to grin like a Cheshire cat" - Cheshire has long been famous for its cheeses. The brand of the company that produced one of the varieties of Cheshire cheese was a smiling cat's face, in the form of which cheese heads were depicted. Although this phraseological unit appeared a very long time ago, it became especially popular after the publication of Lewis Carroll's book *Alice in Wonderland*;

to fight like Kilkenny cats - means "fight until mutual extermination, not to the stomach, but to death." Several soldiers from standing in the XVIII century. in the city of Kilkenny, the garrison tied two cats with their tails for fun and threw them over a clothesline to watch them fight. When someone sent for an officer with a request to stop this cruel fun, one of the soldiers cut off the tails of the cats - and the animals fled. When asked by an officer where the bloody tails came from, someone answered that two cats fought until they ate each other to the tails.

Black Hole of Calcutta - short-term imprisonment associated with the events in Calcutta in 1756, where a large number of Europeans were detained for a day in prison; Canterbury story - "a long, boring story" (an allusion to

the Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer); Carry coal to Newcastle - (carry something where it is already in abundance). Newcastle, famous for its coal mining ores in the UK.

It should be noted that many of the above phraseological units, including toponyms, are realities, since they do not have their equivalents in other languages. They are all closely connected with the geography and history of that particular country, the traditions that exist in a particular area and have a very national and cultural specificity. Toponymic phraseological units are mainly associated with the culture and life of the English people:

Fleet Street - "English press" (the editorial offices of the largest newspapers were located here); Downing Street - "UK government"; Harley Street - "medical profession"; Donnybrook Fair "noisy gathering" - by the name of the annual fair that took place until the middle of the 19th century near Dublin; to be born within the sounds of Bowbelk - "born in London; to be cockney";

Smithfield bargain - "dishonest deal";

California blanket - "a newspaper in which the homeless are wrapped up, settling for the night on the street", literally, "California blanket";

The three tailors of Tooley Street - "a small group of people who consider themselves representatives of the whole people."

The national and cultural specificity of toponymic phraseological units (TPU) is most clearly manifested in a literary text, in which phraseological units act as an allusion, representing a certain precedent situation, understood as "a kind of "reference", "ideal" situation with certain connotations", which is well known to all members of a certain linguistic and cultural community. Allusion is a stylistic device that is a means of transferring the properties and qualities of mythological, biblical, literary, historical and other characters and events to those referred to in this statement; as a correlation of the subject of communication with a situation or event described in a certain text, without mentioning this text and without reproducing a significant part of it, i.e. at the content level.³

TPU function in a literary text as an allusion through the mechanism of intertextuality. Intertextuality in the general sense of the word is considered as an intertextual interaction of a precedent text and a recipient text, as the presence in one text of a part of another text in the form of allusions, quotations, references, indirect or paraphrased speech. I.V. Arnold⁴ understands intertextuality as the inclusion in the text of whole other texts with a different subject of speech, or their fragments in the form of quotations, reminiscences and allusions. V.E. Chernyavskaya believes that intertextuality also acts as a special quality of certain texts that interact in terms of content and expression with other textual entities or their fragments.⁵

The source of allusions, which is a signal of intertextuality, is the precedent text. The concept of "precedent text" was introduced by Yu.N. Karaulov, who defined them as texts: "1) Significant for a particular person in cognitive and emotional terms; 2) Having a superpersonal character, i.e. well known to a wide circle of this person, including his predecessors and contemporaries, and, finally, 3) those who are repeatedly referred to in the discourse of a linguistic personality".⁶

3 Гак В.Г. Семантическая структура слова как компонент семантической структуры высказывания // Семантическая структура слова. М., 19716. С. 7896

4 Арнольд И.В. Семантическая структура слова в современном английском языке и методика ее исследования. Л., 1966.

5 Чернявская, В. Е. Лингвистика текста. Лингвистика дискурса / В. Е. Чернявская. - М. : Ленанд, 2014. - 200 с.

6 Караулов Ю. Н. Русский язык и языковая личность. - М.: Наука, 1987. - 263 с.

Behind each precedent text is its own network of associations that it evokes in the mind of a native speaker. It is this involvement in associative links with other linguistic concepts that determines the regular updating of precedent texts in various types of discourse.

TPU, in our work, acts as a language device that actualizes certain structures of knowledge. As a marker of intertextuality, TPU, being realized in the text, enters into a close connection with individual elements of the narrative's linguistic design, which begin to be perceived as markers of this mythologeme, while being associated with a certain genre, style, historical era and sociocultural community. The inclusion of such a linguistic unit in the new text both leads to the actualization of the allusive title and refers to a different text/texts that acts in relation to the new text as a precedent, culturally significant within a given society and always more archaic. For example, in the story of D.G. Lawrence "Things" also uses a precedent statement that actualizes the precedent situation: *They were grimly hanging on. They didn't like to give in. They didn't like to own up that they were through. For twelve years, now, they had been "free" people living in a "fill and beautiful life". And America for twelve years had been their anathema, the **Sodom and Gomorrah** of industrial materialism.*⁷

In general, it can be said that toponymic phraseological units (TFU) represent national and cultural concepts that are directly related to English culture and, functioning in a literary text, represent stereotypical ideas and act as a precedent text.

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⁷ Lawrence, D. H. Letter to Bertrand Russell. 16 July 1915. MS. D. H. Lawrence Collection. Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas, Austin.