

Linguistic Aspects of the Names of Precious Stones and Minerals in Linguistic Research

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the linguistic researches on the nomination of precious stones and minerals in world linguistics and linguistics aspects of them. It also highlights the importance of studying the names of precious stones and minerals in onomastics branch of linguistics.

Keywords: The names of precious stones and minerals, linguistics, onomastics, proper names, chrematonyms, gemology

INTRODUCTION

We encounter proper nouns in everyday life, which serve to designate people, geographical and cosmic bodies, animals, various objects of spiritual and material culture. The functional and linguistic originality of proper nouns has led to the formation of a separate section of linguistics - onomastics. The interesting thing about proper nouns is that they are most closely related to linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

Initially, onomastics was an applied science, which was used as an auxiliary science and eventually became a separate branch of linguistics. This field is very young and has existed since the 30s of the twentieth century, and the first international onomastic congress, held in France in 1938, helped to give the field of onomastics a scientific status [1,703]. The emergence of Uzbek onomastics dates back to the end of the 20th century, when linguists identified the object, problems and the methods of research of this science.

In “The dictionary of linguistic terms” onomastics (from Lat. “the art of naming”) is a branch of linguistics that studies proper nouns and is interpreted as a system of proper nouns [2,75]. As a branch of linguistics onomastics studies the essence of proper nouns, their functional originality, origin, development, connection with all levels of language. This field also studies the practical and theoretical significance of the science of onomastics, its relationship with other sciences. Onomastics includes historical, geographical, ethnographic, cultural, sociological components, and is closely related to humanitarian science.

According to Uzbek linguist B.Yuldashev, onomastics is the branch of linguistics that studies all kinds of proper nouns, the history of their origin and changes, and is an extremely valuable area of research in the field of linguistics. The science of onomastics aims to identify and study existing onomastic systems in the language [3,12].

A number of onomastics researches have been conducted in Uzbek linguistics. For example, scientific studies of anthroponyms (the names of people), toponyms (the names of places), ethnonyms (the names of ethnic group), phytonyms (names of plants), cosmonyms (the names of cosmic objects), hydronyms (names of seas and rivers, lakes, etc.), zoonyms (names of animals), oikonoms (the names of geographical objects) and etc.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In recent years, due to demand and necessity, new scientific researches were conducted and significant progress was made in “onomastics”, as a separate branch of Uzbek linguistics. The contribution of scientists such as N. Hasanov, B. Akhmedov, S. Garaev, E. Begmatov, T. Enazarov, N. Gusanov, T. Nafasov, T. Rakhmatov, N. Ulukov, O. Begimov, N. Begaliev, A. Turobov is great in the development of Uzbek onomastics. However, despite the great scientific and practical work done in the field of onomastics, there are a number of issues that are waiting to be studied.

Until now, in Uzbek onomastics, a number of onomastic units, such as chrematonyms, mythonyms, gemeronyms, phaleronyms, geonyms, documentonyms, oronyms, patronyms, digtonyms, ergonyms, have not been specially collected or sufficiently analyzed. The study of such onomastic units is one of the urgent tasks facing Uzbek naming science [4,300].

Onomastics, especially in world linguistics, was studied from different points of view. A number of studies have been conducted in the field of onomastics. At the end of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century O. Vostokov, Y. K. Grot, A. M. Selishchev, A. I. Sobolevsky also published interesting research papers on this branch of linguistics. However, the origin of onomastics in its modern form and its transformation into one of the most developed branches of linguistics occurred in the 50-60s of the XX century. In the 70s of the last century, Russian scientists A. A. Beletsky, A. V. Superanskaya, V. A. Nikonova, Y. A. Karpenko and others explored the field of onomastics.

In particular, in Russian linguistics, A. V. Superanskaya divides onomastic units into branches that differ from each other depending on the object being studied, and interprets them as follows [5, 368]:

- anthroponyms (the name of a person);
- zoonyms (the names of animals);
- toponyms (the names of geographical places);
- chronicles (the names of historical times and epochs);
- chrematonyms (the names of precious stones, weapons);

In the research works of other linguists the following branches of onomastics can be observed:

- ethnonyms (folk and tribal names);
- carabonyms (names of ships, boats);
- pragmatonyms (the results of people's practical activities and trademarks);
- theonyms (the names of gods, goddesses according to different religious beliefs);

- cosmonyms (the names of galaxies, constellations);
- realonyms (the names of objects that exist before and now);
- mythonyms (the names of imaginary objects).

In English linguistics, the scope of research of onomasiological units is much wider. In particular, one of the scientists who conducted research on the names of minerals that arose on the basis of toponyms in English was Breandán S. Mac Aodha. In his work [6], he notes that 20% of the approximately 1,500 names of precious stones and minerals existing in the field of geology are named after geographical names, and comes to the conclusion that an equal half of them are named after geographical names of European countries, and a fifth of them are named after geographical names of American countries.

A British scientist, professor of York University Dr. John Andraos compiled a list of mineral names named after people and places in his research paper "Minerals named after people and places". In total, the scientist analyzed 235 names of rocks and minerals in his scientific work. In particular, it can be traced that 167 of them are named after people, and 68 are named in honor of geographical names.

However, studies have shown that chrematonyms, which are a separate field of onomastics, are not studied sufficiently not only in Uzbek linguistics, but also in world linguistics. The study of the linguocultural, psycholinguistic, medical, sociopragmatic and other aspects of the names of precious stones and minerals requires special study in the era of integration of modern sciences.

First of all, let us turn to the definition of the chrematonyms: "specific names of the objects of material culture", as written in the Wikipedia dictionary. Chrematonomy (from Greek. "chrema" – a thing or an object, "onyma" – a name) is a branch of onomastics that studies chrematonyms, specific names of objects of material culture [7]. The Czech philologist Milan Garval claims that in Slavic onomastic terminology it is defined as "the name of something created by person, unrelated to a certain territory" [8,8]. English philologist

A.Room (2006) defines chrematonyms as “unique cultural objects of value”.

The russian linguist V.D.Bondaletov, who studied the theory of onomastics refers to chrematonyms the names of objects of material culture, the names of objects of science and technology (musical instruments, precious stones, jewelry, steamships, spaceships), as well as the names of works of spiritual culture (books, magazines, music programs, etc.) [9,224].

The classification of onyms by A. V. Superanskaya is well known in linguistics, where the researcher claims that chrematonyms study the names of weapons, vessels, precious stones and jewelry, the names of musical instruments, etc. An important place in the onomastic scale is occupied by chrematonyms, that is, the names of inanimate objects, as well as the names of precious stones and minerals, jewelry. Precious stones, which are the object of material culture, are of great interest not only for mineralogists, geographers, geologists, but also for linguists: “a gemstone, especially the names of large diamonds, is a link in the science of onomastics that has certain traditions” says Superanskaya [5,190].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Uzbek linguist E. Begmatov defines chrematonyms as “proper nouns that are given to a single unique weapons, tool equipment, works of art and music that are significant for the culture and history of the nation, whereas a russian linguist N. V. Podolskaya classifying proper nouns in her “Dictionary of Russian Onomastic Terms”, refers chrematonyms to pragmatonyms (from greek: “a thing” + onym “the name of things”).

The combination of “*precious stone, gem, gem stone*” corresponds to the Uzbek lexemes “*qimmatbaho tosh*” and to the russian “*благородный камень, драгоценный камень.*”

Currently, more than 2,000 minerals are known to science. The field of mineralogy that studies precious stones is called “*edelsteinkunde*”. Its international name is gemology (from latin “*gemma*” meaning “semiprecious stone”; from english “*gem*” meaning “precious stone”) [10.96]. Thus, we can say that

chrematonyms, pragmatonyms can be interpreted in the sense of the general name of a thing or an object, while gemology can be interpreted as a field that studies precious or semi-precious stones, and these concepts are in genus-species relations. Chrematonyms stand on the position of the genus, while gemology is on the position of the species.

E. Hoffman and a number of other scientists give special attention to the chrematonymic branch of onomastics, considering it one of the most effective sections of onomastics. They believe that chrematonyms differ in the formation of new names and the involvement of linguistic means for further use [11].

So, chrematonyms are part of onomastics which contains the name of an object of material culture, including weapons, musical instruments, jewelry, precious stones, utensils, the name of an enterprise, institution, organizations, historical events, holidays, press organs, works of literature and art, trains, theaters, shops. This is the proper name of a single cultural object created by a person having a certain (material or intellectual) value. To describe this group of onyms the term "ktemonym" (from greek "ktematos" - "property, wealth") is used in the works of some researchers.

In linguistics, the branch of onomastics that studies the names of stones should be called lithosonym (from greek "litos" – "stone", "onoma" - name). "The study of the names of stones, that is, lithonyms, on the example of turkic handwritten sources will also be a valuable innovation in linguistics" [12,178], is written in some works where the historical features of the names of this species were studied.

In our opinion, if the field that studies the names of objects of material culture is called chrematonyms, then the field of linguistics that studies the names of precious, semiprecious stones and minerals standing on the object of our research is called gemology.

It is interesting to note that, the early development of this sphere is associated with the name of Abu Rayhan Beruni. His book "Mineralogy" is the rarest source in this field not only in Central Asia, but in the Middle East and Europe as well. Beruni

wrote this work during his stay in India and Afghanistan. In his work "Mineralogy" he gave an exhaustive description of more than 30 names of precious stones, metals and minerals and in the process of interpretation he also cited excerpts from poems by Arab classical poets about the names of precious stones, metals, names and minerals. In this book, Beruni outlined some interesting ethnographic data related to rare stones and metals, the prices of minerals of his time, the medicinal properties of them which emphasizes the importance of this book as an important historical source.

In Russian linguistics M.N.Nikolaishvili, G.Smith, O.A.Metelkina conducted scientific research on the names and types of precious stones in Russian. Russian author M. N. Nikolashvili has written five monographs on the terminology of this field: "The nomination of precious stones in the Russian language of the XI-XXI centuries" (2015) and "Physical characteristics of a gemstone from a linguistic standpoint" (2017), "Functional, cultural and the popular features of a beautiful stone" and others.

An expert and collector of precious stones and minerals, American mineralogist George Frederick Kunz has collected very extensive information about precious stones in his book "The Curious Lore of Precious Stones". The author emphasizes that the natural beauty of precious stones combined with their durability makes these stones an important source of emotions and inspiration. Also, the scientist writes about the stones that are used to treat various ailments, protect people, and about the stones that bring good luck and misfortune. The book also provides information about birthstones, amulets, zodiac stones, and stones that are used in religion and divination. In his another valuable book "Shakespeare and Precious Stones" George Frederick Kunz, the great English writer gives examples of the names of stones used in Shakespeare's works 13. A researcher Darryl Powell described in detail the history of the nomination of precious stones and minerals, the principles of their naming, the history of scientists who contributed to the development of the field of mineralogy in the research paper "A dictionary of mineral names" [14].

Russian scientist V. M. Volova analyzed the phenomenon of metonymy, metaphor and figurative comparison in anthroponyms, toponyms and chrematonyms found in the discourse of mass media in her research work on the materials of periodicals of the USA and Great Britain. Analyzing articles in periodicals of the USA and Great Britain, she cites the names of films and TV programs as examples of chrematonyms, and also analyzes stylistic features in them [15].

CONCLUSION

As can be seen, the linguistic phenomena associated with the stone are insufficiently studied not only in Uzbek linguistics, but also in world linguistics. The linguistic nature, connotative meanings, cognitive properties, thematic groups, linguistic and cultural aspects of precious and semiprecious stones represent a very interesting and still unexplored treasure trove. The study of this topic contributes to the development of the English-Uzbek linguistic vocabulary and opens the way to the discovery of new facets of onomastics.

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