

## LEXICAL TRANSFORMATION OF TOPONYMS

**Feruza Abdikhalikovna Khayitova**

Teacher of Termez State University

[feruza7277@gmail.com](mailto:feruza7277@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

The toponymic layer of the vocabulary is not stable. Toponymic nominations, reacting vividly to all modern events, undergo various phonetic, morphological, lexical and structural transformations, as well as semantic changes in the process of historical development.

**Keywords:** toponym, urbanonym, lexeme, micro toponyms, geographic objects, linguistic and extralinguistic factors, political, cultural, social and spiritual spheres,

### INTRODUCTION

The term lexical transformation in this study means the historical change of a toponym at the level of lexemes. Lexical transformation can be expressed by truncating, adding, or replacing tokens.

With lexical truncation, multicomponent toponyms, in accordance with the basic law of toponymy - the law of economy of lexical means, turn into single-component ones, for example, La Rededich → Redditch.

When lexically added in the process of historical development, an additional word is introduced to the toponym, expanding its semantics, for example, the name of the village in Herefordshire Holme Lacy comes from the Hamme nomination "land surrounded by water", to which was added de Laci (the surname of the landowner who owns this land). Here are some more examples of adding lexemes to ancient toponyms: Garrach → Garroch Head, Garvellan → Garvellan Rocks, Torp → Gayton Thorpe, Glenne → Glen Parva, Ledecumbe → Letcombe Bassett, Mærintun → Kirk Merrington, Neptone → Napton on the Hill, Bernham → Barnham Broom.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The replacement of a lexeme in topo nominations is due to the process of renaming a geographic object, for example, Knight's Enham → Enham Alamein, New Milford → Neyland, Wintreburne → Shrewton. In the example King's Ferry →

Queensferry, along with the gluing of the toponymic structure, the King modifier is replaced by the Queen modifier. E.M.Pospelov identifies two immediate reasons for the renaming of geographical objects: 1) the desire to get rid of the existing name; 2) the desire to introduce a new name [Pospelov 1990: 54]. The most active process of renaming topo objects is observed during the period of historical change of regimes, revolutions, wars, the formation of new and destruction of old states. In such periods, there is a kind of "renaming of the past", its historical "revision" with the aim of introducing political ideology into the daily life of a person.

Renaming is a completely natural process for toponyms (especially micro toponyms), since "as the intracity objects underwent various reconstructions and reconstructions, their names were also subjected to rethinking and transformations" [Superanskaya 2011: 72]. Rivers and mountains are renamed less frequently, for example, in August 2015, US President Barack Obama (in collaboration with the US Geographic Names Board and US Geological Survey) renamed Mount McKinley in Alaska, the highest peak in North America and the United States, Mount Denali (the name of the mountain in the local language koyukon).

The first wave of renaming of American place names was noted during the period of the settlement and development of America. Along with the seizure of lands from the Indians, their "aboriginal" names were also replaced.

In some cases, Native American names were translated into English, for example, Painted Post "painted pole", Silver Plume "silver feather", Rising Wolf "rearing wolf", Drunken Indian "drunken Indian", Broken Bow "broken bow", Broken Arrow "broken arrow", Wounded Knee "wounded knee", Bear Creek "bear creek", Boy Lake "boy lake", Coming-in-Sight-Point "spawn location", Daughter-of-the-Sun-Mountain "daughter of the sun", Talking Rock "talking rock", Whistle Creek "whistling stream". Such nominations differ from modern names in that they lack a geographic term. Later, when the Indians no longer posed a serious threat to the white population, they began to admire their courage and courage, and when nominating new geographical names, preference was again given to "aboriginal" place names.

The next wave of renaming was associated with the replacement of Dutch place names. The Dutch influence was not as wide and profound as the Spanish or French. The Dutch colony New Netherlands, existed for about 60 years and then came into the possession of the British. After taking possession of the colonies at the end of the 17th century, British colonists tried to replace most of the Dutch place names with their English alternatives, for example, Nieuw Amsterdam → New York.

The Catskill Mountains, a mountain range in the state of New York, were renamed Blue Mountains by British colonists.

However, after the novel "Rip Van Winkle" by the American writer Washington Irving was released, the original Dutch name of the mountains, where, according to legend, the protagonist of the novel fell asleep for 20 years, became popular again. Translated from the Dutch language, the topo nomination meant "cat stream" or "cat bay".

During the First and Second World Wars, there was open hostility towards everything German, including German culture and language. This resulted in the process of "de-Germanization" or "de-labeling" of geographical names.

The American Defense Society, created in August 1915, led an active campaign to change the German names of cities, streets, parks and schools in America [Shukunda 2015: 311], in particular, in the state of Ohio, the city of New Berlin was renamed North Canton, and the city of Osnaburg was renamed East Canton [Chris, Alderman 2014: 90], Berlin (Michigan) → Marne, Berlin (Iowa) → Lincoln, Berlin Township (Iowa) → Hughes, Berlin Township (Ohio) → Fort Loramie ( returned to the original city name), German Valley (New Jersey) → Long Valle, Germania (Iowa) → Lakota, Germantown (Nebraska) → Garland (after a local soldier who died in the war), East Germantown (Indiana) → Pershing. In June 1918, a Michigan congressman put forward a bill that required getting rid of German toponyms across the country, which was written in an article entitled "Expel Germany from the map of the USA!", Published in one of the issues of the New York Times [ Shukunda 2015: 311].

Many German streets have also been renamed: German Street → English Street, Berlin Street → Woodward Street. In Chicago, Lubeck, Frankfort and Hamburg streets are named after the anthroponomic names Dickens, Charleston and Shakespeare, respectively. Berlin Street in New Orleans, Louisiana and Berlin Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri were named after the commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe, General Pershing Street (Pershing Avenue). Kaiser Street (St. Louis, Missouri) → Gresham Avenue; Von Verson Avenue → Enright Avenue (both streets were named after Americans, among the first to die in the war); Bismark Street → 4th Street; Brunswick Avenue → January Avenue; Hapsburg Avenue → Cecil Place (in honor of the British statesman). The city of Cincinnati, Ohio, began changing street names in 1918: Bismark Street → Montreal Street, Bremen Street → Republic Street, Brunswick Street → Edgecliff Point, Frankfort

Street → Connecticut Avenue, Hanover Street → Yukon Street, Hapsburg Street → Merrimac Street. Schumann Street → Meredith Street, Vienna Street → Panama Street, Humboldt Street → Taft Road and Hamburg Street → Stonewall Street [Shukunda 2015: 312].

Buildings, hotels, bars, schools, hospitals, churches, shops, brands, business companies and other urbanonyms were also renamed. German Mutual Fire Insurance Company (Georgia) → Atlanta Mutual Fire Insurance Company; German American Club → Lexington Society; German-American Bank (Buffalo, New York) → Liberty Bank; German National Bank (Cincinnati, Ohio) → Lincoln National Bank; Kaiser-Kuhn Wholesale Grocery (St. Louis, MO) → Pioneer Grocer; Hotel Bismarck (Chicago) → Randolph; hotel Kaiserhof → Atlantic; German Hospital → Grant Hospital; Park Bismarck Beer Gardens → Marigold Gardens; club Germania → Lincoln; the Kaiser Friedrich Mutual Aid Society was renamed the George Washington Society; Shooting Club Schuetzen Verein (Davenport, Iowa) → Davenport Shooting Association; and a large park with him - Schuetzen Park → Forest Park [Ibid].

At the end of the 20th century, the question of racism in place names is raised. Researchers of American toponymy acknowledge the presence of a "white projection" on the natural landscape of the United States. In 1971, Bullock County, Georgia, renamed all black schools in the United States to so-called "white" names. In turn, in 1992, the Orleans Parish School Council, controlled by African blacks, issued a decree prohibiting the naming of slave-owners to schools. The names of many "white" historical figures, including the name of the slave owner George Washington, the first president of the United States, were replaced by the names of famous African Americans.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Renaming public places (most often streets) is one of the attempts to use the landscape for anti-racist purposes. The renaming of streets in honor of the leader of the American civil rights movement, Martin Luther King, began immediately after his assassination in 1986, and now there are about 900 streets, boulevards, avenues and roads in United States named after him.

Modern renaming occurs in the names of large geographical objects (oikonyms and horonyms), for example: Cape Canaveral (Florida) → Cape Kennedy (in honor of the 35th President of the United States, 1963-1973), Dade County (Florida) →

Miami-Dade County (1997), Manchester (Massachusetts) → Manchester-By-The-Sea (1989), Mauch Chunk (Pennsylvania) → Jim Thorpe (in honor of American athlete Jim Thorpe, 1953); Moscow (Washington) → Bluestem (in honor of the high-yielding disease-resistant wheat variety developed by the State Agricultural College in Pullman 1986); Raritan Township → Edison Township (in honor of the American inventor and entrepreneur Thomas Edison, whose laboratory was located in this town, 1954).

Some cities have changed their name several times during their history, for example, Coal Creek in Tennessee turned into Lake City in 1936 after the Norris Dam was built and Norris Lake was formed, and on June 26, 2014 The Lake City toponym for promotional purposes was changed to Rocky Top (using the title of a popular song).

Even the young grammarians noted that the language is trying to get rid of doublet nominations, thus, in order to accurately identify the toponymic object, the doublet toponyms undergo a renaming process: Ocean City (Florida) → Flagler Beach (in the state of Florida there is another city called Ocean City); Franklin (Georgia) → West Point (there is another Franklin nearby); Hudson (De Kalb County, Indiana) → Sedan (there is another Hudson town in neighboring Stuben County); Newport (Indiana) → Fountain City (for the same reason). Intra-city objects were also renamed in order to get rid of the same nominations, for example, London streets: Alma Street → Cherbury Street; Alma Road → Harecourt Road, Ritson Road; Avenue Road → Bethwin Road, Sycamore Gardens; Brunswick Road → Blackwall Way, Cressett Street, Haggerston Road, Mc Donald Road, Paris Gardens; Bridge Street → Hamlets Way, Ponsford Street, Solehay Street, Westferry Road.

There are known cases of renaming cities for the purpose of advertising, for example, in 1950, the city of Hot Springs in New Mexico was renamed Truth or Consequences (Truth or Consequences) after the owners of the television show "Truth or Consequences" promised free advertising to any city which will change its name to the name of the TV show [Carpenter 2010: 7]. In 2007, the city of Halfway, Oregon changed its name to Half.com for one year, in exchange for the online store Half.com providing the city with \$ 110,000, 20 school computers and other financial subsidies, and the city of Santa in Idaho became Secretsanta.com. The Welsh village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyll changed its name to Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlantysiliogogoch in the 1860s for advertising purposes. This toponomination has become the longest (58 letters) among

the names of settlements in Great Britain, which attracted public attention. The longest name in the United States (the name of a lake in Massachusetts) consists of 45 letters, 15 of which are "g" and 9 - "a" (Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg). In the language of the Nipmuk Indians, the toponym means either "neutral lands" or "you fish on your side, I fish on mine, and no one is fishing in the middle". Nowadays, the Webster Lake nomination is more commonly used. Among the shortest names in the United States and Great Britain, there are several two-letter toponyms: the unincorporated territory of Ed (Kentucky), the Ni, Po, Ta rivers (Virginia), the TB (Maryland) and Ai (Ohio) communities, the western US desert Yp; in Scotland - the sea cliff Aa, the Oa peninsula, the villages of Ae and Bu; in England - the river Og. Among the one-letter nominations recorded: D - river (Oregon, USA), E - river (Scotland), Ì - island (Scotland), O - river (Devon, England).

Unusual in terms of English grammar and pronunciation are the names of Welsh cities that do not have English vowels. Paul Roland cites 14 place names that confuse English tourists: Cwmystwyth (10 letters and no vowels), Crymych, Bwlchgwyn, Rhydymwyn, Ysbyty Ystwyth, Bryn, Cwmtwynrch, Cwmystwyth, Mwmp, Cwmbyh, Cwmystwyth, Mwmp, Cwmbyh Tywyn, Ynysybwl [Rowland 2013]. The opposite situation is observed in the state of Hawaii, where there is a toponomination consisting only of vowels — Aiea [Eckler 1969: 146].

At the same time, there is a process of getting rid of "indecent" place names, for example, Squaw Tit in California was renamed to Thimble Mountain, and in Washington State to Pushtay. In the XX century, there were proposals to consider toponyms from the point of view of political correctness. In 1988, an attempt was made in New York to get rid of "racially derogatory names". The list of 45 candidates for renaming got quite obvious Nigger Pond и Jews Creek, and also quite harmless Bad Indian Swamp и Christian Hill. Francis Carpenter, head of the European Investment Fund, came up with an initiative to rename some of London's inner-city sites whose names could offend the historical memory of citizens of the United Europe [Sizova 2004: 148] (Waterloo Station → Europe Station, Trafalgar Square → Concord Square). However, the deputies of the British Parliament protested against this proposal, since, in their opinion, a special connection with the historical past and the very fact of the presence of such names is one of the main attractions of London.

## CONCLUSION

When renaming, some new nominations may be absolutely unrelated to the previous toponym (Frankfort Street → Connecticut Avenue). Other renames are carried out by adding a word expressing a new meaning (the qualitative adjective old - Old London was added to the name of the town of London in Texas in 1979; Bishops Road → Bishops Bridge Road). Still others are characterized by simplification or truncation of the toponymic model (Arlington → Arling). The fourth ones are based on the close phonetic and semantic interaction of the new and the old name, i.e. are homophones or paronyms (Halfway → Half.com).

Thus, the process of renaming geographic objects involves linguistic and extralinguistic factors, reflecting the changes taking place in the political, cultural, social and spiritual spheres of society. However, not all of the renamed toponymic nominations easily take root in the language; some toponyms continue to retain their original names in folk speech.

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