

On Cognitive Onomastics

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Abstract. The emergence of cognitive linguistics is determined not only by the history of linguistics but also by the development of cognitive studies and the formation of cognitive science in a broader perspective. Since the 1960s, there has been a revolution in linguistics called cognitivism. The cognitive approach to studying various language units is critical in linguistics today. From this point of view, cognitive linguistics, cognitive semantics, cognitive grammar, cognitive lexicography, etc., differ individually. Emphasizing cognitive onomastics among the fields included in cognitive linguistics is relevant. Why should cognitive onomastics be emphasized? Traditional methods of studying proper names need to be more efficient. Their use does not allow us to answer the urgent questions of modern linguistics: how is information fixed, stored and transmitted in onyms? Defined direction results from consistently applying the fundamental principles of cognitive linguistics to onomastics. The article deals with reconstructing onomastic concepts and building a comprehensive conceptual network that motivates all conditional and potential uses of a proper name. The article also discusses the relation between cognitive linguistics and onomastics. Various scientific sources were used to write the article. We note that the modern trends of onomastics include the study of onomastic concepts and conceptual fields, the study of the cognitive aspect of nomination, the review of the conceptual derivation of proper names, the study of the creative potential of appropriate names and Internet onomastics.

Keywords: cognitive; linguistics; onomastics; proper name; onym.

INTRODUCTION

Onomastics is traditionally understood as a science about the proper names of all species, their development and regularities of activity. The following research methods are used in traditional onomastics: collection of onomastic material, descriptive, comparative-historical, comparative-typological, areal, textological, stylistics of proper names, cartographic, stratigraphic. The study of onomastics relates to the names of famous scientists, such as A. Superanskaya, V. Stalman, N. Podolskaya, A. Sultanov, N. Vasilyev and so on.

Cognitive onomastics do not describe proper names' meanings but how they are formed. What is attractive for cognitive onomastics is not the content of the semantic information of a specific onym but the way it is expressed and formed in a particular onym. It studies the appropriate names as cognitive formations used to encode

and transform information. The article also aims to define cognitive onomastics and highlight the characteristic methods in this direction. First, the meanings of the terms onomastics and cognitive linguistics must be determined. "The onomastic space of each language consists of proper names in that language. This space is determined by the world model existing in the cognitive imagination of the people who named it. Names capable of gathering ethnocultural experience occupy a special place in the linguistic system of the language" [3, p. 5].

The emergence of cognitive linguistics is determined not only by the history of linguistics but also by the development of cognitive studies and the formation of cognitive science in a broader perspective. Since the 1960s, there has been a revolution in linguistics called cognitivism. The predecessor of the science of cognitive linguistics

is psycholinguistics. Although there are different definitions of cognitive linguistics, it is possible to give such a definition to cognitive linguistics in general: "...it is the knowledge about the systems in which knowledge is represented and the processing of information that reaches a person through various ways" [9, p. 56].

Cognitive linguistics studies the idea that language reflects our perceptions of the world. "What do people know about themselves and the world, where do they know what they know from, how is this knowledge organized, and how does it function? The most important issues cognitive linguistics investigates are precisely this: the analysis of language facts should answer" [1, p. 391].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The most incredible unique ability of a person is that he has complex ideas such as thinking, being able to convey, and communicating. Thinking (thought) includes a broad spectrum of mental activities and processes. It contains things and phenomena that do not exist physically. It is based on the ability to imagine or represent things, phenomena and topics that do not exist physically; that is, thinking means the ability to imagine or represent topics, objects or phenomena in memory, and at the same time, it is a cognitive process that activates these representations in solving problems.

One of the greatest successes achieved by man since his birth and the formation of society is the giving of unique names to distinguish things, concepts, and objects. "Onomology - this term consists of two words. Onomo means name, and logos means teaching or theory. The sum of proper names in the language's vocabulary is called onomastics, and the branch of linguistics that deals with it is called onomalogy. In revealing the meaning of onomastic units semasiologically, in the study of sound composition phonetics, to reveal their structures morphological and syntactic language regularities are referred to" [7, p. 752]. Historically, people named what they wanted to distinguish. Distinguished things can be people, animals, inanimate concepts, and places.

People never name something unthinkingly. Each given name is filtered through the filter of their thinking, and then the concepts are named. Each given name has a direct connection with the hu-

man psyche. In this regard, there is a very close connection between cognitive linguistics and ontology.

Thus, if onomastics studies the fundamental regularities of proper names' history, development, and activity, cognitive onomastics can be defined as a scientific direction that studies the methods of expressing, storing, and transferring information and knowledge in proper names.

They have a high connotation; the degree of actualization of the connotative potential depends on the linguistic sign, in this case, the only and specific subjects, objects of reality, and communicators' experience who use it for nomination.

What are the characteristics of the research object of cognitive onomastics? The internal structure of onomastic units determines the specificity of the research object. On the one hand, these are special language units considered to separate objects of reality according to individual characteristics. On the other hand, they can be successfully used as classification signs. They have a high connotation, the actualization degree of the connotative potential of the linguistic sign; in this case, specific subjects and objects of eponym and reality depend on the experience of communicants who use it for nomination. Modern science requires new approaches to study proper names and their comprehensive study with new scientific research methods.

Cognitive onomastics has the following tasks: to determine and study the models for forming onyms, to identify and study the features of combining information in them, to the expansion of this information and its concretization, to determine and examine the advantages of using an onomastic vocabulary over other forms of information updating.

All linguistic units are considered meaningful symbolic forms, thanks to which cognitive onomastics realize the view of onymes as symbolic forms whose semantic component is collected as a result of the activity of the subject or object of reality in the real world. It should be noted that the subject or object can be either actual or fictitious; the keyword - "acts", that is, it lives and is used in the language environment - the broader the functional aspect of the onym, the deeper its semantic content. The degree of actualization of this or that component of the onym information space varies depending on the subject who uses

this unit (addresses someone or receives it as information).

Onyms are used in discourse. This use is characterized by productive potential and great flexibility. Onym - a word or word combination that distinguishes one object from another; a means of reflecting individual and similar aspects of that object. "Onym" and its phonetic variant "onom" combine terms related to their form.

The semantic content of the onym is dynamic, it is constantly enriched with new meanings, and although specific meanings lose their relevance within the framework of this onym, they do not disappear from its semantic space. They move to the periphery and are ready to be actualized in speech at any moment.

Sometimes, the image and the name the people gave in folklore later become common words and are passed into the common lexicon. It can be assumed that any image is subsequently subject to changes, the semantic space increases again, and actualization takes on a different meaning. Note that the previous signs do not disappear from the semantic space of one; they go to the "background" and are forever preserved as potentially possible signs.

The communicator selects the most dominant feature based on the experience of using a given linguistic sign, the goals of communication, and the communicative situation. At the same time, the speaker must express a specific meaning in his discourse; he has a relatively rich arsenal of onym, which contain the necessary features. As we know, the primary term of cognitive linguistics is concept. In people's thinking, different concepts are realized in different names in the language landscape of the world. We'll consider the onyms used mainly in Azerbaijani folklore material. For example, beauty- Fatima; little and smart-Jirtan, enormous and foolish-Azman; bravery and heroism-Malikmammad; cowardice-Ahmed, treachery and betrayal-Hamza, etc.

The Onym nomination process includes principles, methods, and means.

The nomination principle allows one to choose the most important candidate for the act of appointment from among all the various relations in which the sign of motivation is always vital.

The method of nomination involves the transition from the meaning of the denotation to its expression using language, and existing proper

names or common names acquire the status of appropriate names due to the act of nomination. "The nomination act should be viewed taking into account the source of nomination, the external form and volume of this unit, the internal form of the nomination, and the semantic types of the nomination. Nomination is the most complex verbalization of reality" [4, p. 90].

The principles of cognitive linguistics, i.e.

1) symbolic postulate, where, respectively, language units symbolize a model of a meaningful attitude to the world in a specific fragment of the speaker's linguistic landscape, that is, in a concept;

2) language is not an inventory of meaningless forms randomly combined with formless meanings;

3) The action boundaries of the concepts are determined by their functional component and are implemented consistently from an onomastic perspective. Thus, the onomastic concept takes a leading place in cognitive onomastics.

Only one sign of the onomastic concept has been found in modern articles devoted to onomastic research. This term has been used in connection with the geographical names of the Tambov region to study toponymic derivations.

"The concept of onomastics is an onomastic science that defines the semantics of a proper name, knowledge about the onomastic fragment of reality. The onomastic concept is a universal unit of storage and transmission of onomastic information; with its help, acquired knowledge is created and structured. The onomastic concept is integrated into the conceptual system of the language, being a part of the linguistic landscape of the world. Onomastic units reflect a person's world view in all its components, constituting the conceptual space of onomastics" [8, p. 78].

Cognitive onomastics deals with onomastic concepts. An onomastic concept is a mental structure symbolized by a proper name that indicates a pattern of orientation in the world in a particular area of the speaker's linguistic view.

The onomastic concept is a multi-layered structure. Its main components include informational (a complex of various information about the subject and object of the nomination), associative (a set of associations related to the named subject and object), and emotional (the emotional bur-

den created by the name of the subject and object in the evaluative nominator).

The information known to the recipient about a particular piece of reality determines his perception of this fragment. An onomastic concept is a unit of knowledge that defines the semantics of a proper name for the subject and object of reality and its characteristics.

A concept is a model of specific world relations. It has a non-presentational character and is not a provision about the state of the world. It does not refer to any conditions of reality, has no meaning and does not matter. Meaning belongs to the speaker, not the word, and is the verbal form of his meaningful relationship to the world. In this perspective, a word is a cognitive framework for the speaker's meaningful orientation in the world. It symbolizes a concept that opens a communicative space for creating different meanings and simultaneously has a stable and plastic form [5, p. 312]. Meaning, like conceptualization in a speech act, is made or re-created due to the speaker's use of the concept for his purposes.

Thus, we can confidently discuss the verbal existence of the onomastic concept - a meaningful relationship with the world with the appropriate name. Cognitive onomastic analysis is more productive for the comprehensive study of onomastic units.

It is essential to identify the cognitive mechanisms that form the basis of the proper name. Conceptual analysis can include both detection and identification procedures arising from the actual use of onomastic units and methods based on the review and interpretation of the concept described in the context of human cognitive systems.

Detection and identification procedures include the following methods: analysis of combinatorial features and compatibility limitations, differentiation of meanings in minimal pairs of expressions with the same truth conditions, determination of usage types, analysis of formally similar expressions with slight differences in denotation, finding historically prototypical meanings concerning etymology, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

From the main approaches used in cognitive semantics to review and interpret the described

onomastic concept, that is, it is possible to use the prototype approach to study the structure of the onomastic idea from the "figure-background" or "profile-base" the cognitive mechanism for analyzing the derivation of the semantic component of the onym, from the concept of "active zone", from the subsequent analysis of the reasons for the shift in the nominator's focus and semantic growth in the onym, from emphasizing the features of actualization in specific communicative contexts, and from determining the features of the construction and description of the information in the onomastic concept etc. As mentioned, the same information can have different forms of verbalization under a proper name. Without indicating the age, appearance, or success, the "womanizer" Don Juan, madly loving Majnun, Farhad, Leyli can be matched in the names. Here, the updated information will serve as a base, and the corresponding name will be a basis for the transfer of information. "Not all the concepts hidden behind the onomastic unit or formed through it, but only the concepts relevant to the text and purpose or necessary to the informant are transferred, and the rest are deleted from the general object. For this process to happen, several cognitive mechanisms (association, construction, development) come into play" [2, p. 13].

Again, a name can encompass several ideas. For example, in one of the Azerbaijani epics, "Farhad and Shirin", Farhad is characterized by true love and complex work information groups. Farhad, who splits mountains for his love, is a hard-working stonemason. An appropriate name here will act as the base, and the updated information will act as the profile. The cognitive dichotomy "profile-base" is closely related to the "active zone" concept, so it should be emphasized that the active zone does not exist by itself but arises in the context of use.

The context plays a leading role in the adequate interpretation of proper name activity because only in the context can it be determined what the name serves in a particular situation – profile or base. This distinction is essential for the further study of the name.

Traditionally, the structure of the concept is divided into core and periphery. We suggest separating the principal and variation parts in the onomastic concept structure.

We define the central part as a nationally designated, objectified using onym units minimized idea of a concrete subject and object of reality.

The variation part is completed depending on the nominee's life experience and depth of knowledge about the topic using individual associations.

Dynamics characterize the main and variation parts, but the main part is less dynamic. The central part is standard to a particular language community, but the variative part is unique to each representative of the language community.

Among the onomastic units, we distinguish three main types of onomastic analysis objects:

- 1) official names (this includes all types of objects with an official nomination - anthroponyms, toponyms, hydronyms, pragmonyms, etc.);
- 2) symbolic names (this includes proper names that have a fixed meaning in their semantic space and symbolize some sign of reality);
- 3) concepts that are verbalized with proper names (this includes any concepts that have received or can receive an appropriate name as a linguistic group: for example, the idea of bravery - Koroghlu, Gachag Nabi, Gachag Kerem; the concept of love - Leyli, Shirin, Asli; the idea of wisdom - Molla Nasireddin etc.

Among the onomastic concepts, we mention three main types:

- 1) the same concept exists in several languages and has a similar interpretation. For example, Leyli and Majnun is a concept that expresses the same idea of love throughout the Middle East;
- 2) the concept exists in two languages but has a different interpretation. Sometimes, the same one means a different idea in one language and a different concept in another. For example, while Molla Nasireddin expresses the notion of quick-

wit in some Eastern languages, in another language, it is a generalized image of someone less than intelligent, a blockhead.

3) the concept exists only in one language. For example, the idea of Azerbaijaniness exists only in the Azerbaijani language. The most famous onym of the idea is the name of national leader Heydar Aliyev. This classification is especially relevant for cross-cultural comparative studies to determine the classification's characteristics and conceptualization of reality in proper names.

Thus, it seems possible to define the following postulates of cognitive onomastics:

- proper names of any kind symbolize concepts. That is, behind onomastic units, there are cognitive structures that are primary about them;
- proper names represent a well-established onomastic thesaurus of symbolic onyms;
- onomastic units are meaningful, and their interpretation depends on the translator;
- onomastic units are symbols that open to infinity, whose semantic content depends on the life activity of their brightest carriers, that is, their owners;
- the boundaries of the use of onomastic concepts are determined by their functional component;
- the meanings of onyms arise as a result of the speaker's semantic effort as a result of cognitive operations on the concept;
- the discursive possibilities of onomastic units derive from their conceptual content.

In conclusion, we note that the modern trends of onomastics include the study of onomastic concepts and conceptual fields, the study of the cognitive aspect of nomination, the review of the conceptual derivation of proper names, the study of the creative potential of appropriate names and Internet onomastics.

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