



SOME PROBLEMS IN EXPLANATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES IN ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

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Abstract: This article deals with English geographical place names and their interpretation in toponymic dictionaries. The inclusion of geographical place names in dictionaries, their specific lexicographic features, as well as scientists who have conducted scientific research in this field are described in detail.

Key words: Geographical place names, toponyms, dictionary, phraseological units, city toponyms, lexicography.

Introduction. It is known that the role of lexicography in the preservation of toponyms from ancient times to the present day is incomparable. Toponymic dictionaries are of great importance in the study of geographical place names, because it is through toponymic dictionaries that we gain more complete information about place names. V. Dubichinsky divides the process of creating a dictionary into several stages, such as forming a collective process, creating a dictionary project, creating a dictionary card index (or a computer bank of information), selecting dictionary vocabulary based on principles, developing an author's concept of the structure of a dictionary article, directly translating selected language lexemes, and preparing the dictionary for publication [1]. Professor M.I. Umarchodjaev took a comprehensive approach to the principles of selecting and placing lexical units, mainly phraseological units, in dictionaries. In particular, the scientist relied on general linguistic and phraseological principles in selecting and placing phraseological units in dictionaries. According to M.I. Umarchodjaev, when placing phraseological units, firstly, it is necessary to clarify the lexical composition of phraseological units. Secondly, it is necessary to be able to directly see the environment of such units. Thirdly, it is necessary to be able to establish an imagination. Otherwise, it is impossible to determine the obligatory context of phraseologisms [2].

Main part. In our opinion, the principles outlined above can also be applied to the compilation of a toponymic dictionary. In this case, it is sufficient to first identify the layer of toponymic units, not phraseological units. Based on the above information, we can recommend the following principles for compiling an educational toponymic dictionary:

- Determine the purpose of the dictionary;
- Clarify the recipient (addressee) of the dictionary, that is, for whom it is intended;
- Determine the type of dictionary (explanatory, encyclopedic or other, as well as monolingual, bilingual or multilingual, educational dictionaries are mainly monolingual);
- Determine the volume of the dictionary;



- The number of toponymic units in the dictionary (it is advisable for educational toponymic dictionaries to cover mainly 1000-5000 toponyms);
- develop the structure of the dictionary;
- be able to see the environment of toponyms suitable for the dictionary;
- be able to use the usual method when selecting toponyms for the toponymic dictionary;
- conduct a written or oral survey with those who live in the area where the selected toponym is located or plan to visit this area;
- analyze the results of the survey and record the necessary ones;
- confirm the collected data; publish sources.

This stage is the last of the work carried out, when all the information is compiled and published as the necessary resource (toponymic reference book or dictionary). This collection of information can be presented to the public in book form or in digital form, that is, in the form of an electronic program. It is worth noting that when publishing an educational toponymic dictionary, it is advisable to pay special attention to its printing characteristics [3].

There are several reasons for the emergence of unofficial place names. First, they reflect the desire of city residents to move away from official, neutral names that seem too distant or boring to them. Second, by changing official names, city residents form local, folk signs. Landmarks used by residents of a city, in turn, help to form and strengthen the urban identity of the population. Third, unofficial place names are intended to express the feelings of citizens towards the settlement [5].

It can be seen that 32% of the unofficial city toponyms of the United States reflect material objects:

- 1) economy, industry: Great Commercial Tree (Chicago), Space City, Energy Capital of the World, City of Syrup (Houston), Silicon Desert (Phoenix), Military City (San Antonio), Silicon Beach (San Diego), The Capital of Silicon Valley (San Jose);
- 2) geographical location: City by the Lake, City in a Garden, The Third Coast, Heart of America (Chicago); River City (San Antonio), The Fun City on the Hudson (New York), The City So Nice They Named It Twice ((New York, because it is in the state of the same name);
- 3) weather: The Windy City (Chicago), Valley of the Sun (Phoenix), City of Flowers and Sunshine (Los Angeles);
- 4) plants: Lotusland, Lotusville (Los Angeles), Magnolia City (Houston);
- 5) architecture, landmarks: The City of Neighborhoods, City of Homes (Philadelphia), The Five Boroughs (New York);
- 6) relief, geographical features: South Bay (San Jose), Bayou City (Houston);
- 7) culture: Hustle Town (Houston), City of Murals (Philadelphia);
- 8) sports: Clutch City, Crush City (Houston);
- 9) population characteristics: Quaker City (Philadelphia), Alamo City (San Antonio).

Thus, analyzing the methods of forming informal place names of US cities, we can draw some conclusions:





1. The main method of forming toponyms is an extralinguistic method that allows us to describe the place;

2. Most of the informal place names we have considered reflect the material realities of culture.

Place names may have been in use for many years before they were recorded in primary sources, but they often do not reflect their history, that is, they do not indicate the time of their appearance in these sources. Toponyms can also arise in a situation where they were created relatively recently, for example, in the 19th century. If toponyms consist of elements of foreign origin, it is necessary to take into account the lexical description of the head word and the toponymic form in the dictionary [4].

Throughout the history of English national lexicography, a number of special dictionaries of toponyms have been created, which have been presented in various ways and lexicographically processed, as a rule, place names are recorded in which the head units are given together with grammatical information about the main meaning, either briefly or in an extended form. The leaders of toponymic research in England are Margaret Gelling and Anne Cowley, who are also the creators of these sites. Unfortunately, the microstructure of these dictionaries almost always does not have a pronunciation form, that is, readers who are not provided with transliteration would like to see the orthoepic feature in the dictionary exactly as it is, since many toponyms are borrowed from other languages, which leads to difficulties in pronouncing English words.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the interpretation of geographical place names in English dictionaries poses complex and multifaceted problems influenced by linguistic, historical, and cultural factors. Issues related to the accuracy, translatability, and cultural context of place names emphasize the need for comprehensive and culturally sensitive approaches to their interpretation and representation in dictionaries. Furthermore, the dynamic nature of language and the changing meanings of place names emphasize the importance of constant updating and revision of dictionary entries to reflect contemporary usage and understanding. To address these challenges, linguists, historians, geographers, and cultural specialists need to collaborate to ensure that place names are presented accurately and contextually in English dictionaries, thereby preserving their linguistic and cultural significance for present and future generations.

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