Toponyms in Modern Youth Jargon (on the Material of the English Language)

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Abstract: The aim of the article is to analyze the peculiarities of using toponyms in English youth jargon. In our work we used the qualitative methods, the methods of analysis and abstraction. The analysis of the theoretical sources shows that toponyms are verbal designations of natural or artificially created geographical objects located on planet Earth. Toponyms form a certain layer of historically, socially and culturally conditioned vocabulary containing valuable information not only about historically significant events but also about the worldview or lifestyle as well as the value system of an ethnic group. Toponyms undergo changes in the course of the historical development of the language. These changes are connected with the subject of speech who carries out the process of toponomination. Within the framework of the present investigation the subject of speech is a representative of the younger generation who either changes the morphological composition of the word, or endues the word with a new shade of meaning, or gives a new stylistic coloring to it. From the standpoint of the modern approach, youth jargon is not necessarily the speech of subcultures or people with immoral behavior. This is the conventional language of youth invented for entertainment or language compression.

1 INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that the vocabulary of a living language records all the changes that take place in the life of society. On the one hand, the vocabulary fund is a stable system of lexical units, but, on the other hand, it is in constant motion due to certain historical, political, economic or cultural events. Youth jargon is a vivid indicator of the current state of society. Representatives of the younger generation react to various changes in society in a peculiar way in the form of protest, subcultures or jargon.

There are many works devoted to the study of the linguistic features of youth jargon in general (by E. Partridge (1972), M.M. Kopylenko (1976), E.V. Uzdinskaya (1991), E.M. Beregovskaya (1996), N.O. Orlova (2004), E.A. Polekhina (2012), O.E. Morozova (2015), etc.). However, jargon in the field of onomastics, in particular toponymy, is not sufficiently covered in scientific research. The problem of the influence of youth jargon on English toponymy requires detailed consideration and testing in practice.

Summarizing the theoretical conceptions of scientists, both domestic and foreign, (E.M. Pospelov (1964), M. Halliday (1978), R.A. Ageeva (1979), E.S. Bobyleva (2016), V.V. Korneva (2016), I.D. Balandina (2018), L.V. Egorova (2018), Kh.B. Khakimova (2020), etc.), we can state that toponyms are chronological witnesses of important historical events. Toponymy studies both the etymology of geographical names i.e. the conditions of their occurrence and the changes they undergo in the course of historical development.

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Toponyms in youth jargon are a continuously changing layer of the lexical system of the language requiring classification according to various criteria as well as clarification of the functions in speech and the causes of occurrence.

2 MATERIAL AND METHODS

The goal of the article is to analyze the peculiarities of using toponyms in English youth jargon.

The goal has predetermined the tasks of the investigation:

1) to carry out a brief review of different approaches to the interpretation of the term "toponymy";

2) to reveal the essence of the term "youth jargon";

3) to analyze different semantic groups of toponyms in the English-speaking youth jargon;

4) to compare the obtained results with the goals and tasks set at the initial stage of the study.

In the course of our study we used the qualitative research methods which implied first of all the collection of material for the research and the analysis. We collected theoretical material on youth jargon as a special sub-style of the national language, toponymy as a branch of onomastics, different approaches to the classification of toponyms.

At the following stage we analyzed the selected theoretical material. The method of analysis enabled us to highlight significant notions, definitions and quotations from the available material relevant to the present investigation. The notion of toponym was considered from different perspectives – historical, linguocultural, cognitive.

When analyzing the linguistic features of youth jargon, we used the methods of semantic and morphological analysis. We also used the all-scientific method of classifying linguistic material. There are different approaches to the classification of toponyms. Depending on the aspect under consideration, toponyms differ in structure, semantics, the historical period of occurrence, etymological features. We took as a basis the classification of toponyms according to designated geographical objects.

The analysis was implemented on the material of English-language sites devoted to geographical objects and Online Dictionary of British Jargon. This analysis allowed us to find out that toponyms are often modified in youth jargon in accordance with the word-formation models existing in the English language. Toponyms in youth jargon serve to emphasize the identity of young people against the background of other representatives of society, to save time and effort, i.e. for the sake of language compression.

3 RESULTS

Having analyzed the existing theoretical sources which reveal the essence of the notion of toponymy, we can conclude that toponyms are verbal designations of natural or artificially created geographical objects located on planet Earth. They form a certain layer of historically, socially and culturally conditioned vocabulary (Davletkulova, 2014).

From the point of view of history, toponyms are chronological witnesses of important historical events. Toponymy studies both the etymology of geographical names, i.e. the conditions for their occurrence, as well as the evolution of these lexemes, i.e. changes that they undergo in the course of historical development. Over time, toponyms change in form and content, depending on certain events in the life of native speakers. Such events include wars, revolutions, reforms, inter-ethnic conflicts, narrow-scale local events, etc. (Ayubov, 2018).

From the perspective of the linguocultural approach, toponyms constitute a whole layer of the lexical system which serves both for the nomination of geographical objects and for the storage and transmission of historical facts associated with a particular object of toponymy from generation to generation. According to V.V. Korneva, toponyms reflect not only historically significant events but also code information about the mentality, worldview, lifestyle, system of values of a particular ethnic group (Korneva, 2016).

From the position of cognitive linguistics, the nomination of a geographical object is not a spontaneous action. The toponym is the result of cognitive processes of cognition and comprehension of the phenomena and facts of the surrounding reality. Toponyms as lexical units are the result of understanding the world by people living in a certain geographical area. Therefore, the cognitive aspect is relevant in a comprehensive study of the toponyms of the region (Martynenko, 2020).

Toponyms undergo various changes in youth jargon. As is known, at the beginning of the last

century the term “jargon” was associated with the language of lawbreakers. In the middle of XX century the famous writer K.I. Chukovsky studied youth jargon. He believed that such “exotic words” were invented by the representatives of the youth generation purely for their own social environment but not for parents, teachers or adults (Chukovsky, 1962). E.M. Beregovskaya states that youth jargon is the language of youth subcultures which can be perceived as a gesture of protest against the state system, rules and moral norms that restrict the freedom of young people (Beregovskaya, 1996).

The attitude of foreign linguists to youth jargon is slightly different from domestic ones: E. Partridge argues that the content of jargon is very diverse and can include both words that are unacceptable for a noble citizen and words that are widely used in the speech of educated youth (Partridge, 1972). According to the conception of M. Danesi, jargon words allow building communication more effectively, revealing the social and age affiliation of the speaker. Although jargon vocabulary refers to the informal style of the language and is opposed to the literary language, it constitutes an essential part of the lexical fund and is widely used in everyday speech, i.e. jargon denotes a much wider range of colloquial words (Danesi, 2015).

In the modern interpretation, the English-language youth jargon is represented by the language of young people who, for the sake of convenience or entertainment, either distort the external form of words, or endue them with a new shade of meaning, or give them a new stylistic coloring. Young people often paraphrase proverbs and phraseological units, create extraordinary phrases, abbreviate words and expressions.

Based on the classification proposed by M.M. Kopylenko (1976), which was further supplemented by E.M. Beregovskaya (1996), we identified the following semantic types of jargon words used in the speech of modern youth:

1) parts of the body: *skull*, *brain*, *coconut*, *think tank* (head), *choppers* (teeth), *chops* (mouth), *conk* (nose);

2) words denoting representatives of various professions: *bacon* (policeman), *digethead* (computer programmer), *chalkie* (teacher), *baffer* (manager), *clippie* (bus conductor);

3) household appliances: *box* (TV set), *comp* (computer), *button* (remote control);

4) means of transport: *iron pimp* (school bus), *bike* (bicycle), *whip* (expensive car), *copter* (helicopter), *chuffer* (train);

5) words denoting people by kinship, family and friendship: *seed* (child), *rentals* (parents), *chum* (friend), *kid* (close friend), *wench* / *gooey* (girlfriend), *babe* (baby), *fam* (family);

6) student life: *birdcage* (student hostel), *homers* (homework), *to wash out* (to fail exams), *soph* (sophomore), *zam* (exam);

7) food: *swiggle* (“weak” coffee with just enough sugar to make it tasteless), *cuppa* (a cup of tea), *sherbet* (beer), *bevy* (beverage), *nosh* (food), *chocker* (chocolate);

9) money: *yen*, *duckets*, *spent*, *bones*, *benjamin*, *loot*, *guap*, *cake* (money); *fiver* (five-pound banknote);

10) words that describe a person’s appearance: *janky* (unattractive), *buffalo* (fat woman), *business class* (fat), *butters* (ugly man), *dime* (pretty).

The analysis of toponyms in youth jargon is based on the classification of toponyms proposed by L.A. Vvedenskaya and N.P. Kolesnikov (2005):

1. Hydronyms or names of water bodies. Hydronyms are further divided into several subgroups:

a) potamonyms - names of rivers: for example, *Big Muddy* is the jargon name for the Missouri River; *Father of Waters* is the informal name for the Mississippi; *Big River* is River Yukon. The main river of England, the Thames, has long been called *Zombie* by young people. This is due to the fact that because of the industrial waste there were no living creatures in the river. Another jargon name for this river is *Great Stink*;

b) oceanonyms - names of the oceans and objects associated with the oceans (bays, currents, reefs, channels, etc.). They are often used in youth jargon in a truncated form: *Coffs* - Coffs Harbor, *Ninsh* - Mornington Peninsula, *Straddy* - Stradbroke Island;

c) pelagonyms - names of the seas and objects associated with the sea: *Goldy* - Gold Coast;

d) limnonyms - names of lakes and ponds: *MoPo* - Moonee Ponds, *Nessy* - Loch Ness;

e) gelonyms - swamp names: *the Vasyugan swamps*, *the Wetlands of Pacquet*, *the Lotus Mangrove*, *the Flat Quag*, etc. *Foggy Bottom* is used to refer to the Scottish Department of State located on the site of a drained swamp.

2. Oronyms or names of mountains, mountain peaks, rocks, ridges, mountain ranges, i.e. different kinds of hills: the *Isa* - Mount Isa, *the Mount* - Mount Gambier. In youth jargon *Jewish Alps* is used to denote *Catskill Mountain* situated in the southern United States.

3. Oikonyms or names of settlements. The city of Amsterdam is called *the Carpet City* due to the fact

that this city was once famous for its carpet factory. The resort town of Saratoga Springs in the United States is used in youth jargon in an abbreviated form - *Toga*.

The following geographical names are formed by truncation: *Manc* - Manchester, *Argie* - Argentina, *Shep* - Shepparton, *Curry* - Cloncurry, *Melbs* - Melbourne, *Barky* - Barcaldine, *Deni* - Deniliquin, *Freo* - Fremantle, *Gero* - Geraldton, *Paddo* - Paddington, *Reddy* - Redcliffe , *Damsko / Amsie* - Amsterdam, *Agga* - the Hague, *D-Town* - Dordrecht, *Chillburg* - Tilburg (the verb "to chill" means "to relax"), *Hole-10* - Holten, *B-City* - Bergum.

Names of cities and towns consisting of two or more components are abbreviated to one component in youth jargon. The definite article is often used with them: *the Tennant* - Tennant Creek, *the Berra* - Canberra, *the Doo* - Humpy Doo, *the Go* - Bendigo, *the Gong* - Wollongong.

Gotham is a jargon term used for the city of New York: it is some kind of a joke about New York since Gotham is the corrupt city in the Batman comics.

Chiraq is the jargon name for the city of Chicago. The new lexical unit was formed by the merger of two oikonyms - *Chicago* and *Iraq*. The jargon appeared for the reason that the repeated executions reminded the inhabitants of the war in Iraq. The Ukrainian region of Luhansk is called *Luganda*, alluding to the chaotic and violent situation in Uganda.

London has many jargon variants of the name: *Big Smoke* (due to the heavy smoke from industrial smog), *LonFog* (London + fog: fog as the characteristic natural feature of the area), *Queendon* (Queen + London: as a sign of dissatisfaction with the style of the Queen's government). The Canadian city of Toronto is called *Muddy York* due to the lack of sidewalks on many streets.

4. Urbanonyms or designations of urban objects. Urbanonyms include the names of parks, monuments, bridges, buildings, museums, theaters, etc. The names of most geographical objects are replaced by jargons which express the identity of the area. For example, the Bronx district of New York is denoted by the lexeme *Hip-Hop* due to the fact that it is considered the birthplace of hip-hop. The famous *Broadway* is used in youth student jargon to refer to the first floor of the academic building.

Most urbanonyms have undergone truncation of parts in youth jargon: *Bruns* - Brunswick (suburb of Melbourne), *Foots* - Footscray (outskirts of Glasgow), *SoHo* - South Hobart (outskirts of Hobart), *Trak* - Toorak (poor area of Melbourne). *Black Rock* is the name of a New York skyscraper made of black marble. Because of its shape, the George Washington Monument is referred to as *the Pencil* in youth jargon.

Dromonims, a separate type of urbanonyms, are the designations of means of communication: ground, underground, air, water, underwater. For example, *Zoo Plane* is used to denote the aircraft of the attendants and reporters accompanying the presidential candidate. A cheap car is denoted by the lexeme *Tin Lizzie* in the speech of young people. *Tom Thumb* is used to nominate a train with a small number of cars.

Thus, the analysis of the linguistic material allowed us to identify the following linguistic features of toponyms in the speech of modern youth:

- reduction and truncation of geographical names as a result of language compression;
- filling toponyms with new lexical meanings;
- the use of toponyms to designate common names;
- the use of common names to designate geographical objects;
- the satirical nature of toponyms in youth jargon.

4 DISCUSSION

Thus, the results of the present investigation confirm that toponyms are verbal designations of natural or artificially created geographical objects located on the Earth. They form a certain layer of historically, socially and culturally conditioned vocabulary (Davletkulova, 2014). Sharing the opinion of V.V. Korneva, we can state that toponyms contain valuable information about the state of society of that historical period when this proper name was formed. They reflect not only historically significant events but also code information about the mentality, worldview, lifestyle, value system of a particular ethnic group (Korneva, 2016).

Toponyms as well as other lexical units of the language undergo changes in the course of the historical development of the language. These changes are always directly related to the person who carries out the process of toponomination. Within the framework of the present investigation it is a young person who is the author of a new form of a word or an old word with a new meaning.

We cannot agree with the conception of E.M. Beregovskaya who believes that youth jargon is a gesture of protest of young people against the state system, rules and norms of morality that restrict their freedom (Beregovskaya, 1996). The analysis of toponyms has proven that youth jargon does not necessarily consist of vocabulary with negative

connotations or tabooed words and expressions. In the works of E. Partridge we find a statement similar to ours: the content of jargon is very diverse and can include both words that are unacceptable for a noble citizen and words that are widely used in the speech of educated youth (Partridge, 1972).

Based on the generalization of the research held in the field of toponymy usage in youth jargon, we have distinguished the following peculiarities of jargon toponyms:

1) most jargon toponyms are formed by truncation of words: *Straddy* - Stradbroke Island, *Saratoga* – Toga;

2) abbreviations are also characteristic of jargon toponyms: *MoPo* - Moonee Ponds, *D-Town* – Dordrecht;

3) another productive way of forming jargon toponyms is word blending: *Chiraq* – Chicago + Iraq, *Luganda* – Luhansk + Uganda;

4) many geographical objects are subject to secondary lexical nomination in youth jargon. In other words, geographic objects also have nicknames, since, from the point of view of young people, nicknames characterize the object more fully and clearly: *Big Muddy* – the Missouri.

The analysis of toponyms in youth jargon was based on the classification of toponyms proposed by L.A. Vvedenskaya and N.P. Kolesnikov:

1) hydronyms or the names of water bodies which are further subdivided into several subgroups: potamonyms - names of rivers, oceanonyms - names of oceans, pelagonyms - names of the seas, limnonyms - names of lakes and ponds, gelonyms - names of swamps;

2) oronyms or names of mountains, mountain peaks, rocks, ridges, mountain ranges;

3) oikonyms or names of settlements;

4) urbanonyms – designations of urban objects.

Thus, most geographical objects received new designations in youth jargon, formed by truncation, abbreviations and suppletive stems. New designations are usually based on distinctive features of localities.

5 CONCLUSION

Thus, having analyzed the existing theoretical sources on the issue under consideration and the practical material represented by toponymy in youth jargon, we can assume that youth jargon is a vivid indicator of the current state of society. Representatives of the younger generation react to various changes in society in a peculiar way in the form of protest, subcultures or jargon. From the standpoint of the modern approach, youth jargon is not necessarily the speech of subcultures and lawbreakers or people with immoral behavior. This is the conventional language of the younger generation invented for entertainment or language compression.

As the results of the investigation of toponyms in youth jargon show, jargon functions as an informal, specific layer of vocabulary that differs from the literary language. Toponyms in youth jargon can be characterized by their excessive expressiveness, instability, ironic effect, duality of meaning.

Toponyms in youth jargon are young people's own conventional language consisting of specific words and idiomatic expressions. Most of these words are formed according to the word-formation models existing in the English language - the methods of truncation, abbreviation and blending.

The results of the investigation can be used in the development of special courses and seminars on the problems of onomastics. The results of the work can also be used when writing term papers and theses, scientific articles, compiling dictionaries of toponyms or dictionaries of youth jargon.

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