A LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL STUDY OF THE NAMES OF MEANS OF TRANSPORT

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21786382

Abstract
This thesis analyzes the linguocultural features of the names of means of transport. It examines the sources of the emergence of transport names, their connection with the national mentality, customs, and cultural values of a people, as well as their classification from a linguistic point of view. In the course of the study, a comparative analysis is conducted of the linguocultural features characteristic of transport names in Uzbek and other languages.

Keywords: linguoculturology, names of means of transport, language and culture, national-cultural semantics, onomastics, transportonym, metaphor, motivation.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the mirror of a nation's spiritual life, thinking, and culture. The way of life, worldview, and values of any people are reflected in the units of the language, particularly in its lexical layer. In recent years, the field of linguoculturology, which studies the interrelationship between language and culture, has been developing rapidly within linguistics. Within this field, the study of the national-cultural characteristics of the lexicon of various domains is of particular scholarly importance.

The names of means of transport also constitute one of the lexical layers closely connected with the material and spiritual culture of a people. In the process of naming means of transport, from the cart to the modern electric vehicle, one can trace a nation's historical development, its perceptions related to the progress of technology, as well as processes such as the nationalization of words borrowed from other languages. For this reason, the linguocultural study of transport names is of considerable theoretical and scholarly significance not only for linguistics but also for ethnography, cultural studies, and history.

The aim of this study is to identify and analyze the ways in which the names of means of transport are formed, their semantic-motivational features, and their national-cultural content.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

– to elucidate the concept of the transportonym from a linguocultural point of view;
– to develop a classification of transport names;
– to identify the national-cultural factors involved in the naming process;
– to conduct a practical analysis using examples of transport names in the Uzbek language.

MAIN PART

1. The Concept of Linguoculturology and Transportonyms

Linguoculturology is a branch of linguistics that studies the interaction and interrelationship between language and culture, and the way this interrelationship is manifested in linguistic units. According to scholars in this field, linguistic units serve not only a communicative function but also act as a kind of "cultural memory" that preserves a nation's culture and history.

Lexical units denoting means of transport are studied in linguistics under the term transportonyms, or, in part, as a subset of ergonyms. In a broader sense, the term transportonym encompasses not only the official name of a means of transport (for example, a vehicle brand) but also the informal, distinctive, figuratively meaningful names that have taken shape in popular speech (for example, figurative names such as "steed" or "wheeled sweetheart").

2. Linguocultural Classification of Transport Names

The names of means of transport can be divided into several groups according to their origin and motivation:

1) Historical-traditional names – names of traditional national means of transport such as cart, wagon, litter, and mount, which took shape in connection with the people's way of life and its nomadic or agricultural culture;

2) Technical-terminological names – international terms created on a scientific-technical basis, such as automobile, train, airplane, and ship;

3) Metaphorical-figurative names – figurative designations used by the people in reference to means of transport, such as "steed," "iron horse," or "house on wheels," in which a means of transport is named through symbols rooted in national imagination;

4) Borrowed names – names that have entered the language from other languages and become fully assimilated (such as bus, taxi, metro, and tram), most of which have taken on an international character.

3. National-Cultural Semantics: The Case of the Uzbek Language

In the history of the Uzbek people, concepts such as "horse," "cart," and "caravan" denoted not merely a means of transport but a particular social-cultural reality. For instance, the word "caravan" expresses not only a set of vehicles for carrying goods but also the trade and cultural exchange processes associated with the Great Silk Road. Similarly, the figurative use of the word "steed" in reference to the automobile in modern language may be regarded as the result of the fusion of the image of the "horse" found in folk oral tradition with modern technology.

Furthermore, the informal naming of means of transport in local dialects (for example, referring to a bus as a "big car" or a truck as a "gruzovik") demonstrates the influence of regional and social factors on linguistic units. Such cases attest that transport vocabulary is rich and varied not only at the level of the literary language but also at the level of colloquial speech.

4. Comparative Linguocultural Analysis

A comparison of transport names across different languages shows that every people relies on its own distinctive associations when naming means of transport. For example, the English word "car" derives from the Latin "carrus" (cart), while in Russian the word "автомобиль" is composed of the Greek element "autos" (self) and the Latin "mobilis" (moving). In Uzbek, the word "avtomobil" has been borrowed as an international term; however, in popular speech the word "mashina" is used more actively, which reflects the lexical influence that entered the language through Russian.

Such a comparative analysis shows that the formation of transport names is shaped not only by internal linguistic laws but also by significant factors such as interlingual contact, historical and political circumstances, and cultural relations.

5. The Role of Transport Names in Speech and Literary Texts

The names of means of transport serve as an important figurative-stylistic device not only in everyday speech but also in literary works. In folk proverbs, sayings, and epics, means of transport such as the horse and the cart often take on symbolic meaning, serving to express notions such as speed, strength, and freedom. In modern literary texts, on the other hand, names such as automobile and train are used to reflect a character's social status, the spirit of the era, and technological progress.

CONCLUSION

The linguocultural study of the names of means of transport demonstrates that this lexical layer is not merely a set of ordinary units performing the naming function of language, but rather a rich source that embodies a people's history, way of life, worldview, and cultural values. The division of transport names into historical-traditional, technical-terminological, metaphorical-figurative, and borrowed types allows for a deeper understanding of their origin and national-cultural content.

The results of the study confirm that studying transport names from a linguocultural point of view creates opportunities for new scholarly findings at the intersection of linguistics, cultural studies, and ethnolinguistics. Continuing research in this direction, examining the cognitive-semantic features of transport names as well as the transport terminology of the digital age (such as electric vehicle and drone-taxi), remains a pressing task for future study.

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