Subject matter: American Toponyms and Peculiarities of Their Rendering into Russian.

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ABSTRACT

Toponym is the general term for any place or geographical entity. Place names provide the most useful geographical reference system in the world. Consistency and accuracy are essential in referring to a place to prevent confusion in everyday business and recreation. A toponymist, through well-established local principles and procedures, applies the science of toponymy to establish officially recognized geographical names. A toponymist relies not only on maps and local histories, but interviews with local residents to determine names with established local usage. The exact application of a toponym, its specific language, its pronunciation, and its origins and meaning are all important facts to be recorded during name surveys.

Scholars have found that toponyms provide valuable insight into the historical geography of a particular region. F. M. Powicke said of place-name study that it “uses, enriches and tests the discoveries of archaeology and history and the rules of the philologists”. Toponyms not only illustrate ethnic settlement patterns, but they can also help identify discrete periods of immigration.

Toponyms have the characteristic feature of being linguistically conservative by virtue of the fact that the old name remains long after the area has been invaded by new settlers. Place names in the U.S.A. continue to have aboriginal words in the toponyms such as Oaxaca, Acapulco, Saskatchewan, among many more.

In this research we attempted to take up the ways of giving names to geographical objects in the English language. The aim of our research is to analyze various classifications of American toponyms, to examine the structural and semantic features of formation of American geographical names, and to determine the most significant methods of rendering American place names into Russian.