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From the History of Onomastics in the Former Soviet Union

Annales Neophilologiarum nr 7, 119-132

2013

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

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FROM THE HISTORY OF ONOMASTICS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

in 1973 I delivered a lecture entitled “Onomastics in the USSR” at Bradford University (GB). It was not published at that time. In the year 2013 I looked the text through and found its content interesting for the modern scholars engaged in onomastics.

Significant results have been achieved in the S.U. over the last 20 years in the field of onomastics. Groups of scientists have come into existence, whose collective efforts have borne much fruit in the study of geographical and personal names in certain territories.

The fact is that the S.U. covers an enormous area and that its population is made up of many different nationalities. This was equally true in the past when it was possible for these nationalities to go virtually wherever they liked. All this causes problems for the linguist-onomastician in his/her work; it means that he/she must not only be versed in linguistics but also that he/she must accumulate a great deal of information on the history, geography and ethnography of the territory under study. There are no university departments in the S.U. that train specialists in the study of proper names. Linguists do have a definite advantage but people with historical, geographical or sometimes even economic backgrounds come into onomastics as well. The principal explanation for the considerable influx of scholars into this discipline, that is comparatively new in the S.U. at least, lies in the need to explain, by means of the science of proper names, the riddles that it has proved impossible to solve within, shall we say, the framework of his-

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tory, geography or ethnography. The scientific armoury of these disciplines could not explain such phenomena as nationalities' paths of migration, settling places, etc. Having armed itself with maps, reference books and historical documents, onomastics, in its turn, tries to do this. Several schools of thought and trends have emerged in the S.U. in the field of research into personal names, place-names, etc.

A special onomastic group has been founded at the Linguistics Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. This group of Moscow scholars carries out onomastic research within the Russian Federation, it is working out the theory of proper names and is studying the social and psychological factors that determine their nature and function. The Russian Language Institute in Moscow is also involved in the study of proper names but deals with a different aspect of the subject. O.N.Trubachov, the outstanding Soviet linguist, etymologist, translator and commentator on Fasmer's "An Etymological Dictionary of the Russian Language" has published two most interesting books: "A Linguistic Analysis of hydronyms of the Upper Dniester region" (in conjunction with V.N.Toporov) and "The Hydronymy of the Lower Dniester Region" in which he analyzes the place-names of the region from etymological and structural angles. There is also a Place-name Committee at the Geographical Society in Moscow; it studies the naming and renaming of geographic objects, their unification and the standardization of orthography and pronunciation. However, V.A.Nikonov, one of the S.U.'s pioneers in the field of onomastics, works in Moscow – his studies of Slavic geographical names and Russian personal names have become basic handbooks for the majority of novice onomasticians.

Sverdlovsk (at present Ekaterinburg) is a major place-name centre in the Urals. A group, headed by Professor Matveev, is studying geographical and personal names in what is now Uralic regions. All the work is concentrated at the University.

Tomsk is rightly considered to be the third major onomastic centre. A stratigraphy of Siberian place-names has been drawn up under the direction of and benefiting from the active participation of Professor Dulson. Strata such as Ket, Chulym-Turkic, Selkup, Khant, Altai-Turkic, Shor, Yakut, Nganasan, Mansi, Evenk and Russian have been examined.

The toponymy of Western Siberia is the product of a series of historical periods: consequently, its linguistic roots and times of origin are far from uniform. Many directions and aspects of the subject can be studied. One of these direc-

tions (in fact, the dominant one in the Siberian school of thought) is the study of the substratum toponymy of Western Siberia, in connection with the problem of the ethnogeny of the peoples of Siberia and their languages. The compilation of a card index is the starting point for the method Professor Dulson has devised for analyzing the substratum toponymy of Siberia. The basis of all the schematic maps (more than 100) is card-indexes arranged both in direct and reverse alphabetical order. The card-indexes have been compiled on the basis of geographic coordinate system from different sources, primarily from geographical maps of Western and Eastern Siberia and the adjacent regions with a scale of 1:1,000,000. On each slip there is a place-name, the object it refers to, various spellings of the place-name and its coordinates (latitudes and longitudes). Each card gives an indication of the type of topographic object (mountain, river, lake, settlement, ravine, etc.), its exact name copied from a map, the geographic coordinates of the object and an indication of the source from which the reference has been taken. In the first half of the card index, cards are kept in normal alphabetical order; this enables the frequency of occurrence of the same base to be calculated and a structural analysis of the appellatives to be made. Cards are kept in reverse alphabetical order in the second half of the card index; the sole linguistic function of this part of the card index is to clarify the part played by geographical terms in the formation of names. The main purpose of this part of the card index is extralinguistic. Professor Dulson considered that, when the native inhabitants of Siberia, whether they were Turks, Kets, or Selkups, were naming rivers, they invariably used as the base a word meaning 'river, water, something that flows' and put in front of it a word that classified a particular river as 'swift, wide, long', etc. In view of the fact that the native peoples who settled Siberia until the massive arrival of Russians in the 18th century were much more dependent than modern man is for their vital requirements on their environment (and, in particular, on the sources of water which provided them with food and enabled them to move around), they were forced in the interests of communication and orienteering to give names to all the waterways around them. When they had done so the native peoples linguistically secured the territory which they occupied in the same way by passing on geographical names from one generation to the next. In spite of frequent changes in population and language, the geographical names given by predecessors prevailed, sometimes undergoing morphological, syntactic or phonetic changes. There was only a complete change of geographical names in the event of a new people arriving in a locality and not finding anyone there. Such an oc-

currence was very rare. Consequently the toponymy of any Siberian region is composed of many strata and languages, embodying traces of superstrata, substrata, adstrata and the contemporary nomenclature. Given such a series of pre-conditions, it is possible to use an etymological analysis of the toponymic system of a locality to separate the linguistic strata and with the availability of geographic coordinates mark on a map the location of one or each another language group. If the isogloss thus produced proved to be a dense closed area, then this may be considered as an indication of the location of a substratum group.

I shall give several examples to illustrate this. In Turkic languages the word *suu* 'water; river' with its variations exists which with the organization of geographical names by Turkic peoples is often included in one or other river-names with the addition of words in the attributive part such as *qara* 'black; copious', *aq* 'white; glacial', *orto* 'middle', etc., i.e. the whole name itself would be roughly as follows: *Qara-Suu*, *Aq-Suu*, *Orto-Suu*. When adapted by the Russian people they became the rivers *Karasa* or *Karasushka*, *Akca*, *Ortoqa*, etc. Knowing that the *-suu/-sa* element is Turkic, we used the reverse part of the card index where all the names with the *-suu/-sa* element have been collected to mark them on the map in the form of small badges in the middle of a river course. The diagram so formed, assuming that the badges cluster densely together, neither being too far away nor isolated from the whole mass, can serve to indicate earlier pre-Russian distribution of the Turkic peoples in Siberia. Using such an analytical method for the substrata of place-names Professor Dulson and his pupils showed such layers of native Siberian river-names to be Chulym-Turkic, Ket, Indo-European, pointed out the presence in Siberia of Paleosiberian and even Paleoasiatic toponyms. All representatives of Professor Dulson's school of toponymic research are working by his methods.

However, Siberian toponyms do not only provide exceptionally valuable historical data. The toponymy of Western Siberia is a living, active, developing system. In connection with the founding of new spaces in this area, ethnic upheavals are being observed, the toponymic system of Western Siberia can serve as a natural laboratory where a research is able to trace the processes of building up toponymy, its development and its interrelationship with the socio-historical conditions of the life of the society and of the topographic environment. Moreover, forming separate Russian toponymy is being studied in direct connection with historical problems of its colonization and building up of Russian dialects in the region.

Turning to synchronic toponymy calls not only for theoretical tendency but also practical requirements. Toponymy is one of the vital means of communicating. There is no society which would not use a vast number of names, including geographical ones, when communicating.

What's more, at the present time in the S.U. and this included Western Siberia, many geographic objects are being re-named and in those newly founded regions, for example in northern parts of Western Siberia, people are encountering the need to re-name objects coming under the sphere of economic activity. However, this process itself raises many questions, about the suitability of the names being invented to the spirit of the time and to the structure of already well-known names, about the meaning and occurrence of old words underlying the re-naming process, about the authenticity or otherwise of wide-spread legends concerning separate place-names.

And now I wish to deal with the study of Russian and Turkic toponymy in Western Siberia in somewhat more detail since I study these aspects myself and believe that the specific material I suggest will be of interest to my readers. Toponyms as words are so closely connected with their engendered validity that it is impossible to study them without taking historical conditions into consideration. A few words about the ethnic situation in Western Siberia at the time of its being joined to the Russian state.

The population of Western Siberia before the Russian conquest was sparse, scattered along the banks of numerous rivers and lakes. It was mixed both in its ethnic composition and languages spoken in the territory. In the Far East, along the coastal stretch of the Yamal peninsula small groups of the most ancient settlers, Arctic hunters for sea animals, managed to survive. The major part of the population was assimilated by the newcomers from the South – the Samoyedic peoples. The latter settled in the tundra, forest-tundra and partly in forest areas. The southern neighbours of the Samoyedic peoples were Ugric languages speakers and also the Kets. In the southern parts of the forest areas, in the forest-steppe of the Irtysh river basin, Baraba, in the upper and middle reaches of the Ob' basin, in the basins of the Tom', the Chulym, in the Altai and Sayan regions detached tribes of Turkic descent dwelt.

The colonization of Western Siberia by the Russians began in the 16th century, although several cases of relationship between Russian principalities and the Yugor land in an earlier period, even since the 11th and 12th centuries have been known in history.

The availability of free, uncultivated land, small density of aboriginal population, abundant natural resources immediately drew masses of Russian peasants whose aim was to settle in Siberia, besides many of them in this way escaped from serfdom slavery, lack of arable land and poverty. In its turn the Russian Government sent service class people, builders of fortified towns, and coachmen to Siberia. The colonization of Siberia bore a step by step character. Here the Russian people encountered many national tribal groups, who either nomadized in a vast territory or settled along the banks of big rivers and lakes. They possessed a good knowledge of the land they lived on and as a consequence had a well-developed system of topographic names. Their knowledge of river-names was especially good and they passed their place-names on from generation to generation. The arriving Russian population had to get acquainted with these toponyms as well. It is quite in the order of things that more or less big rivers in Siberia do not bear Russian names, at the same time the overwhelming majority of settlement names were created on the basis of the Russian language. As evidenced by the following Siberian river-names: the *Ob'*, the *Irtys*, the *Yenissei*, the *Bija*, the *Katun'*, the *Amur*, the *Angara*, the *Lena*, the *Chulym*, the *Vasjuga*, the *Tom'*, the *Tym*, the *Vakh* and others, they all are of aboriginal origin.

Non-Russian river-names in Siberia have opaque base-forms for the Russian newcomers, that is why the Russian population does not understand them and makes numerous attempts to reconstruct their original meanings by creating myths and legends about places thus bringing many false etymologies into being. The inhabitants of the city of Tomsk which is situated on the *Tom'* river-banks and across which the river *Ushaika* flows know very well the poetic legend about the Tatar princess *Tom* and her sweetheart king *Ushai* who were separated by *Tom's* cruel father. *Tom* threw herself into the river, later called by her name the *Tom'* and *Ushai* trying to reach her became the river-name *Ushai*. People have a lot of legends like this. Man is an inquisitive being attempting to find out the inner form in many both toponyms and personal names. The majority of these assumptions do not have any real basis but many legends are still alive. Sound etymologies have not been found for many big rivers in Siberia so far.

The name of the river *Ob'* may serve as a typical example. False etymology relates the river-name with the Russian word *both* as the river *Ob'* is formed by the confluence of two rivers – the *Bija* and the *Katun'*. Obviously, the river-name does not come from the Russian language, and its explanation given above is beneath criticism either from the linguistic or historical point of view. What was

the source of the loan word *Ob'* first mentioned in the Novgorog chronicle dated by 1364 in which it was called *Obdora*? The matter is complicated by the fact that the Russian population is the only one who employs the name *Ob'*, other people living on its banks know different names for its designation, the Khants call it the *As*, the Turks – the *Umar*, the Kets – *Ju*, *Chu*. V.A.Nikonov (Никонов 1966) in his dictionary hypothesizes about its Iranian origin (see all the forms below). Cartographers mapped the name in the following forms: von S.Munster (in the year 1544) – *Obi* fl.; S. von Herberstein in his travelling notes has *Oby* flu.; A.Jenkinson's map (1562) – *Oba* fl.; J.Hondius' map (1606) – *Oby* fluvius; J.Danckerts' map (before 1670) – *Oby* Rivier; P.I.Godunov's maps (1667, 1672) – r.*Ob*; on the map of the unknown cartographer (1675) *Oby* R.; N.Witsen's map (1687) – *Oby* fluv.; S.Ul.Remezov's map (1687): *Obÿ* R./*Ўби* r.; it is also called the river of *Ikar* or *Ikran*. G.F.Miller [Миллер 1937: 498] writes: “Obdorsk-town was founded in the year 1595 in the place of the Ostjak settlement known to Russians by the name *Nose*, it was situated on the bank of the *Poluj*, in 6 versts from its flowing into the *Ob'*; the name *Nose*-town remained for *Obdorsk* at a later time, the origin of the names *Nose* and *Obdorsk* comes from the *Ob'* ‘river’ and *dor* ‘cape’ and may be found in the *Zyrjan*, *Samoyed* and *Ostjak* languages.”

And now for the three sets of place-names found in the Mountain Altai. The first one has the element *aba* in its composition. The distribution of the final *-ob*, *-ob'*, *-op*, *-op'*, *-ab*, *-aba*, *-ap* can be seen on the schematic map compiled on the database borrowed from the Siberian place-name catalogue (Tomsk Pedagogical University). I think that for the place-names of indigenous origin on the vast expanses of Siberia the readings of schematic maps or charts should be considered one of the most convincing proofs in onomastics. A simple principle of isogloss counts, behind which lie years of close study and research, helped Siberian scholars to open up new avenues for the history of Siberia. None of the more recent theories have been worked out to the point where they can be evaluated as having done as much as isogloss counts, which have exerted a profound influence upon the development of onomastic evidence. Isogloss counts have come to be accepted by most of those in what we may think of as the mainstream of scholarship as the very basis not only of the onomastic method, but of the whole discipline of historical onomastics.

Toponyms with the final elements given above (*-ob*, *-ob'*, *-op*, *-op'*, *-ab*, *-aba*, *-ap*) made up three well-formed isoglosses. One of them is the territory of Uzbekistan, where the place-names ending in *-ap*, *-ab*, and *-ob* are concen-

trated. The second embraces both banks of the river Kama in the European part of the Russian Federation from the settlement Butysh in the south-west to the settlement Cherdyn' in the north-east. Here the dense concentration of toponyms in *-ap*, *-ob*, *-op*' may be observed. And the third areal is located at a place stretching from the river Choja to the river Inja and its confluence with the river Ob', i.e. from Novosibirsk to Gorno-Altai, on the right side of the river Katun', at a place between the two rivers, the Ob' and the Chumysh and further on to the river Inja. The third areal shows the distribution of the toponyms ending in *-op*, *-ap*, *-aba*. The maps of the same scale show a sparse distribution of the final part in question throughout Khakasija. The number of place-names in the third region I am mostly interested in exceeds 20 to which one may add derivatives and come out with the total number of 30. All languages of Turkic, Mongolian, Samoyedic, Finno-Ugric, Tungusic, Yeniseian families people speak or spoke in Siberia cannot help in explaining these place-names. The links I managed to find are the following ones: Sogd. $\bar{a}p_{(ph)}/\bar{a}\beta/p_{(ph)}$ – water, $\bar{a}p\check{c}i/\bar{a}pn\bar{e}$ – waters (Gharib 1995: 8, 17). Hit. $a=m\bar{u}$ – water (Sturtevant 1936: 5). Hit. $abu=attas$ – father (Sturtevant 1936: 24). Tch. $\bar{a}p^*$ – water; river < PTch. $*\bar{a}p$ < PIE. $*h_2\bar{e}p-$ ~ h_2ep- [Skt. $\bar{a}p-$, Avestan $\bar{a}f\check{s}$ – water, Gk. $\bar{A}p\acute{\iota}a$ – Peloponnesus, OPruss. ape – water, $apus$ – spring, Lith. $\grave{u}p\acute{e}$ – water] (Adams 1999: 44). Sumerian a – water (Woodard 2004: 30). Turner (1966: 19) expands the limits of comparison to $\acute{a}p$ – water, $\acute{a}pa\check{h}$ – waters (Regweda), $\bar{a}p\bar{o}$, $\bar{a}pa-n$ – (Pali), $\bar{a}u-f$ (Pracrits), $ab\acute{o}$, $\bar{a}bu$ (Ashkun), $\acute{a}w\bar{a}$ (Kati or Katei), $\bar{a}w$ (Wajgali), $\acute{a}w\bar{a}$ (Prasun), $\acute{a}u$ (Dameli), $a\check{u}$ (Gavar-bati). Cf. Turk. $\acute{a}b$ – 1) water; fluid; river; source; fountain; sap, juice; sap and soul of the universe; tears; sweat; urine; semen; broth; wine, drunkenness, 2) freshness, luxuriousness, vigor; grace, charm; radiance; dignified look; sense of honor; virtue; chastity; excellence, rank, dignity; glory, fame; value; prosperity; health; splendor; polish, shine (of metal); luster, glitter; temper (of steel); diamond; precious stone; pearl; crystal; glass; mirror; sword, knife, dagger; mercury, 3) mercy, compassion, pity, 4) way, road: fashion, mode, rule, habit; *Abi Ruknabad* – brook near Shiraz, *Abi Zenderud* – Zenderud (river of Ispahan) (NRTED 1968: 1-2).²

It is also tempting to link all the forms given with E. *aquatic*, F. *aquatique*, L. *aqua* – water, it also occurs as a name of a river in the form *a*, *aa* (Etymologisch woordenboek <...> 1990: 64), L. *aquaticus* – in, or pertaining to water, watery, F. *aqua* – вода, that relates the lexeme with Goth. *aĥa* – river; waters,

² All of the lexeme meanings are given in one and the same dictionary entry.

OHG *aha*, OFris. *ā*, *ē*, ON *ö*, OE *ēa* - water (Klein 1966: 97). And some other forms added: Goth. *afhawa* - river, OHG *ouwa* - watery meadow, ON *āēger* - sea, Skt. *āpas*, Gr. *hudōr* - water together with reconstructed IE form **akw* (Partridge 1958: 22) or **uet'/*ut'* - (cf. Hit. *ḫitti* - in water, *ḫitaz* - out of water); Skt. *udā* - waters, waves (Gamkrelidze, Ivanov 1984: 671).

With the help of Chinese chronicles the Canadian scholar E. Pulleyblank (2002: 15 (IX)) formed his own view on the history of ancient Indo-European peoples. He claims that the Tocharians spoke Indo-European languages less than 1000 years ago. Chinese contacts with the Tocharian people were permanent and lasting. They ended up in the 9 and 10th centuries after the Uighur invasion which brought about the extinction of the Tocharians. E. Pulleyblank (2002: 16 (IX)) assumes that the easternmost people speaking Tocharian were Yüeh-chih who lived in Kansu, i.e. inside China proper. One may postulate that Ta-yüan (the Tocharians) had been occupying Sogdiana approximately since 124 A.D., subduing the lands lying to the north of the river Oxus that before belonged to Yüeh-chih (Pulleyblank 2002: 26 (IX)). E. Pulleyblank agrees with Mallory who in 1989 suggested that the Proto-Tocharians could be identified with the Afanasjev culture flourishing in the upper reaches of the Yenisei river (the Minusinsk basin) in the 3rd millennium B.C. Then around the beginning of the 2nd millennium B.C. the Tocharians moved southwards to the Tarim basin. The Tocharians' arrival from the North around the 2nd millennium B.C. may be compared to mummy datum identification. It also correlates with the appearance of Qijia culture in Gansu and Qinghai which had higher agricultural economy and metallurgy compared to the previous Neolithic Yangshao period. It is likely that the Proto-Turkic peoples Tingling (later Tiele), Hiankun (Kyrghyz) and Xinli (Syr) who settled down in the place later inherited Afanasjev culture in the upper reaches of the Yenisei river. Finally in the beginning of the 2nd millennium B.C. they were subdued by Hsiung-nu, a people considered by E. Pulleyblank to belong to the Yeniseian phylum (2002, 412 (IV); 416-417 (XII)). From all the forms and the explanation given above I came to the conclusion about the Indo-European origin of all toponyms of the isogloss *-ob*, *-ob'*, *-op*, *-op'*, *-ab*, *-aba*, *-ap*.

The majority of Russian river-names are composed of affixed forms and the most frequented models are marked by the suffix *-k(a)* and its variants *-ovk(a)*, *-evk(a)*, *-ink(a)*, *-ank(a)*, *-ushk(a)* (more than 43% of all Russian hydronyms). Each version of the suffix *-k(a)* has its own word-formation links and also different isogloss distribution. Thus, hydronyms with the suffix *-ovk(a)*, *-evk(a)*

are first formed from words denoting specific characteristics of a river: its colour, smell, current, surrounding flora and fauna, its topography, for example, the Okunjovka, the Jershovka, the Jeltsovka, the Talovka, the Kedrovka, the Bobrovka, the Khmeljovka, the Sosnovka, the Berjozovka, the Rjabinovka, etc.; second, their word-bases are surnames, personal names and nicknames, for example, the Basmasovka, the Isajevka, the Ivanovka, the Stepanovka, and others.

In Western Siberia the names with the suffixes *-ov*, *-ev*, *-in* make up only 9-10% of all Russian original river-names. This model is more common in forest regions and looks like a combination of personal names, surnames and nicknames with the suffixes in question, for example, the Greshkina, the Van'kina, the Troshkina, the Mit'kina, the Baturina, etc. In some parts of Western Siberia the hydronyms ending in *-ikh(a)* (from 7 to 10% of all Russian river-names) are distributed to the same degree as names affixed by *-ov*, *-ev* and *-in*.

The suffix *-ikh(a)* is usually associated with word-bases denoting the physical or topographic attributes of a river, for example, the Krutikha, the Shumikha, but the same suffix *-ikh(a)* is particularly associated with personal names (by which I mean first names rather than surnames), for example, the Shmyrikha, the Bazurikha, the Fomikha, the Sofronikha, the Murashikha, etc.

A further extension of the suffixed formants used in Western Siberian appellatives is to be seen in the names of small rivers. These take the form of adjectives derived with the aid of the suffix *-sk* from personal names or names of localities (i.e. toponyms). Consider the following examples: the Krivolutskaja, the Nazinskaja, the Vartovskaja, the Kedrovskaja, the Sorovskaja, the Sgorskaja, and others.

There is a further suffix quite frequently used to form river-names, i.e. *-ukh(a)*, a format more commonly associated with the name of mountains: Grjaznukha, Savrasukha, Zemljanukha, etc.

We now come to the non-affixed type of format or rather, as it is sometimes called, the zero-affixed type. This is commonly used in the central regions of the river Ob'. These are again river-names composed from adjectives which already exist in the language to denote an obvious attribute. For the most part these are characteristic features of the river itself, for example, the colour of the water, characteristics associated with its source and currents, adjacent vegetation, and the animal world, etc.

Obviously there is only a limited range of adjectives suitable for application as names of rivers. As a result one meets innumerable Chjornyje rechki, i.e.

the Black rivers originating from swampy areas and thus having distinctively dark-coloured water. In parallel to the Black rivers there is again an equally innumerable incidents of Belyje rechki (the White rivers) originating from the clear water of springs. Here some examples illustrating the popularity of colour concepts all frequently met in the Krasnaja, the Swetlaja, the Sinjaja, etc.

I mentioned that the sources of rivers often reflected in their names. Here again some examples: the Bolotnaja, the Kluchevaja, the Tajozhnaja. To illustrate the relevance of currents to river-names, consider the following examples: the Bystraja, the Glubokaja, the Tjoplaja. A particularly common appellation (strangely enough!) is the Sukhaja used of streams flowing only in the spring but drying up in summer. Dimensions are also a popular source of river appellation, for example, the Malaja, the Bolshaja, very frequently encountered; the Dolgaja. One also finds river-names relating to the shape of the course of the river, the Prjamaja, the Krivaja, the Kriven'kaja, the Povdol'naja, the Poperechnaja. Again, there is a category indicating the nature of the river-bank, for example, the Ploskaja, the Krutaja. There is further a category relating to numerical concepts, for example, the Pervaja, the Vtoraja, the Pjataja, etc. There is a particularly large category of river-names indicating the botanical qualities of the adjoining terrain: the Osinovaja, the Berjozovaja, the Jelovaja.

There is one more major structural category of river-names – that of a combination of words, i.e. in the form of a short phrase but as a rule these refer to the smaller water ways, streams, springs, stretches of rivers; inlands, narrows, disused river-beds, pools, etc. In these instances the term used to name the river reflects the particular nature of the source of the river. The majority of such “word-combinations” are of an attributive nature, their first element comprising a normal Russian adjective – be it qualitative, relative, or possessive – technically referred to as “de-toponymacal” or “de-anthroponymical” adjectives: the Durnoj poloj, the Glubokij istok, the Zhuravlinyj istok, the Davydova kurja, the Mumyshevskaja kurja, and others. However, despite these abundant categories it is unusual to find complex appellations for the rivers of Western Siberia.

From the semantic point of view and indeed from the ethnographic point of view it is desirable to have some familiarity with the toponymy of the non-Russian national groups populating Siberia in the modern times. For example, if we take the toponymy of the Altai Turks who dwell in the Altai Republic, we find that all aspects of the economic organization are reflected in the choice of appellations – something which is not characteristic of Slavic etymologies in Rus-

sian toponymy. For example, we find the geographical names giving information on cattle-breeding which is the chief concern of that part of the population. The geographical names embody a vast corpus of information about the cattle rearing Altai population – the animals, certain specific actions associated with animal raising, about the location of settlements, the housing of herds, the presence or absence of grass to serve as fodder for herds, the topographic nature of the river-banks along which the herds are driven; we find information about the presence or absence of a source, the nature of its surface terrain, the temperature of the water, its twist and other attributives: the river At-Atqan ‘I shot a horse’, the river Ayu-Čarqan ‘the bear (was) butchered’, the hollow Qaraanalu-Qyshtu ‘winter camp with Siberian pea shrub’, the mountain Qažaqan ‘cattle yard, winter camp’, and many others.

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ABBREVIATIONS

E. – English	OFris. – Old Frisian
F. – French	OHG – Old High German
Hit. – Hittite	ON – Old North
Gk. – Greek	OPruss. – Old Prussian
Goth. – Gothic	PIE – Proto-Indo-European
IE – Indo-European	PTch. – Proto-Tocharian
L. – Latin	Skt. – Sanskrit
Lith. – Lithuanian	Sogd. – Sogdian
OE – Old English	Tch. – Tocharian
	Turk. – Turkish

Abstract

The paper presents the lecture I delivered at Bradford University (GB) in 1973 and addresses the history of onomastics in the former Soviet Union.

Keywords: Onomastics, isogloss, stratum, distribution, nomads.

Z HISTORII ONOMASTYKI W BYŁYM ZWIĄZKU RADZIECKIM**Streszczenie**

Artykuł zawiera wykład wygłoszony na Uniwersytecie w Bradford (Wielka Brytania) w 1973 roku i poświęcony jest problematyce historii nazewnictwa w byłym Związku Radzieckim.

Słowa kluczowe: Onomastyka, izoglosa, warstwa, dystrybucja, koczownicy.