

LINGUISTIC AND FUNCTIONAL FEATURES OF ONOMASTIC UNITS

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Annotation. This article analyzes the linguistic nature of onomastic units, their place in the language system, and their functional characteristics. As a branch of linguistics that studies proper nouns, onomastics includes anthroponyms, toponyms, zoonyms, ethnonyms, pseudonyms, and other naming units. The article scientifically explains the nominative, identificational, differential, expressive, and cultural-cumulative functions of proper nouns. In addition, it examines the importance of proper nouns in preserving historical memory, expressing national and cultural values, and ensuring clarity in the communicative process. It is emphasized that onomastic units serve not only as naming tools but also perform social, aesthetic, and stylistic functions. The results of the research show that the significance of onomastic units in modern linguistics is steadily increasing.

Key Words: Onomastics, proper noun, anthroponym, toponym, pseudonym, nominative function, identification, differential function, linguistic analysis, cultural memory, semantics, functional description

Onomastics is one of the important branches of linguistics that studies proper nouns and their features within the language system. In every society, there is a need to name people, places, historical events, literary characters, and cultural objects. Therefore, proper nouns are not only means of nomination but also units that preserve historical, cultural, and social information. The most important function of proper nouns is the nominative function. Through this function, a specific person, object, or event is given a name and distinguished from other units. For example, personal names appear as anthroponyms, while geographical names are represented as toponyms.

The second important function is the identificational function. This function helps recognize a particular object or person. For example, the name Amir Timur not only refers to a historical figure but also provides clear historical identification.

The differential function serves to distinguish similar types of objects from one another. For example, the names Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara differentiate cities from each other. This ensures clarity in communication. Expressive and stylistic functions are especially evident in literary works. Writers use pseudonyms or symbolic names to add additional meaning. For example, literary pseudonyms reflect the author's aesthetic views and creative position.

Onomastic units also play a significant role in preserving national and cultural memory. Historical place names, family names, and the names of famous individuals transmit the historical experience of a nation from one generation to another.

Thus, onomastic units are an important component of the language system. They are not only naming tools but also means of expressing historical memory, cultural heritage, and social relations. Their nominative, identificational, differential, expressive, and stylistic functions reflect the richness of language and the cultural development of society. Modern onomastic studies contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic and pragmatic importance of these units.

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