

LINGUISTIC PECULIARITIES OF GEORGIAN AND BRITISH HYDRONYMS

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Abstract. This paper is of interest to geographers and historians, as well as linguists. Hydronyms and the natural world around them are the most important factors of the geographical environment. Since ancient times, people have tried to settle along hydroobjects and adapt to natural conditions.

Over the centuries, the names of hydronyms in Britain and Georgia have formed a rich vocabulary. The hydronyms of Britain and Georgia - pelagonyms, limnonyms and potamonyms - are an ancient and stable layer of geographical names. The creation of hydronyms by chroniclers and historians is a widespread phenomenon, covering a long period.

The vocabulary of geographical names can change over time. Compared to most toponyms, hydronyms are linguistically very conservative. Hydronymic names are the most stable in the lexical fund of a language.

The paper deals with the etymological and semantic analysis of hydronyms of the British Isles and Georgia. Linguistic analysis methods, such as etymological, semantic, significantly contribute to the clarification of the origin of geographical names. The etymological method, which is very important in toponymy, is leading, as it helps to restore the primary meaning of a geographical name.

The onomastic vocabulary of those hydronyms that received their names in the British and Georgian linguistic environments has been described. The paper allows us to understand the geographical, historical and linguistic aspects of hydronyms located in the British Isles and in Georgia.

The research revealed that the etymology of British and Georgian hydronyms has been explained by the Celtic and Georgian linguistic environment, on the basis of which the mentioned hydronyms were formed.

Keywords: toponymy, geographical environment, Georgian and British hydronyms, linguistic, etymological, semantic.

Any Language is always at the center of linguistic and especially onomastic research. Words are a world of interesting facts and processes that have specific lexical-semantic properties.

The world of names is a complex system shrouded in mystery and has a centuries-old history. In the vocabulary of each language, proper names form a special category that has its own specific characteristics.

Proper name reflects its traditional semantic definition: the name of an individual person, place, etc. (Crystal, 2008)

It is known that due to the diversity of the landscape, people from an early period began to group geographical features as their own names. Toponymy is an essential field of geographical science in two ways. First, place names are valuable geographic identifiers, instruments for the processing, interpretation and dissemination of geographical information (Parker 2001, p. 2).

It should be noted that toponyms and their constituent groups - oikonyms and hydronyms are part of cultural heritage as well as elements of the language, which, like proper names, perform certain functions and denote geographical concepts and features.

According to Cambridge Dictionary the naming of areas of water such as rivers, lakes, and seas, or the study of these names, their origins and meanings.

The aim of the paper is to discuss the etymological and semantic system of Georgia and Britain's hydronyms. The paper studies and analyses several hydronymic names and terms of both countries. The meanings of hydronyms provide extensive information about the zones located in these territories, historical and onomastic references, and landscape features. The paper also discusses name-sake toponyms and hydronyms denoting colors. Accordingly, in the formation of geographical names, one of the leading objects of names is color.

This study attempts to conduct a linguo-cultural analysis of hydronyms - the names of seas, rivers, and lakes - taking into account semantic and linguo-cultural aspects as well.

It is interesting that the role of hydronyms in the civilization of the world population is important; a large number of names of regions, cities and villages derive from hydronyms or vice versa.

There are many different name-sake toponyms on Earth, namely **oikonyms** and **hydronyms**, which have the same name.

As is known, the origin of the name sake toponyms is associated with the resettlement and migration of peoples from the European continent to other continents over the centuries.

For example: **the city of London** (located in England, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand - there are 29 London in the world), **Cambridge** is located in England, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, **the rivers Thames, Severn, Trent**, etc. In addition to England, they can be found in North America as well.

It is noteworthy that on the territory of Georgia, both in the east and in the west, there are many name sake toponyms (oikonyms and hydronyms). In Samegrelo and Abkhazia, there are more than two dozen villages with similar names: for example, **Akhaldaba** in the Ochamchire region, as well as in Akhmeta, Mtskheta, Borjomi municipalities, etc.; **Ilori village** in Ochamchire district, in Abkhazia, and the village of the same name in Samtredia district; The River Reka in Ochamchire district and Senaki municipality of Samegrelo-Zemo-Svaneti region.

The village of Kelasuri is located in the valley of the Kelasuri River in the Tsebelda community of the Gulripshi municipality of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia. "In 640-662, the Kingdom of Egrisi sometimes invited the Persians against the Byzantines and sometimes - vice versa. **The Great Wall of Kelasuri** was also built by the Greeks at that time to stop the Persians. "**Klisura**" comes from the Greek word and means **narrow**, the wall was built in these narrow places⁶ therefore, the **Kelasuri River** took this name"(Tskadaia & Khorava, 2016).

There are numerous name-sake oikonyms and hydronyms in the territory of Abkhazia. For example: the Machara River and the village of Machara, the Besleti River and the village of Besleti, the Okumi River and the village of Okumi, the Kodori River and the Kodori Range, the village of Gumista and the Gumista River, the city of Gagra and the Gagra Range, the Gagripsh River - Gagra Water, etc.

Gagra is one of the most popular resorts in Abkhazia on the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus. In the middle ages it was called "**Gagari**", which in old Georgian language meant "**narrow passage in a valley**". It was first mentioned in Georgian sources in the 14th century.

On Italian and Catalan maps, it is marked as **Cacary, Chachari/ Cacr/ Chatari**. Gagra is bordered to the northwest by **the Gagripsh River** (In the Abkhazian language it means Gagris **Tiscali**. At the mouth of this river, a fortress was built in late antiquity, which was also used in the middle ages. On the territory of the fortress there is a three-nave basilica of the 5th-6th centuries, which was restored in the 20th century "(Tskadaia & Khorava, 2016).

As it has been mentioned above, name-sake toponyms can be found both in the territory of Britain and also on different continents. Tweed is a region of stunning natural beauty in northern England, where **the River Tweed** flows and the Tweed Valley is located.

As is known, tweed is a woolen fabric, however, long before the appearance of this wonderful material, there was a river called **the Tweed River**.

The origin of the word "tweed" is still controversial. Some believe it comes from the Scottish word "**tweel**", which refers to the diagonal weave of the fabric, while others believe it is related to the history of a London merchant. The name tweed originated from a simple mistake: a London merchant misread a manuscript by a Scottish cloth merchant advertising "**tweel**". He thought it referred to **the River Tweed**, which flows through the Scottish textile heartland – the Scottish Borders – and advertised the fabric under a new name – "**Tweed**". Thus, the misinterpretation became a legacy. <https://runwaymagazines.com> ›

The River Tweed (Scottish Gaelic: Uisge Thuaidh) is a river in the border region between England and Scotland, on which lies the town of **Berwick-upon-Tweed**, known as **Berwick-on-Tweed**, or simply **Berwick**, and a parish in Northumberland. The town was formerly the site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement and it was a part of the Kingdom of Northumbria, which was annexed by England in the 10th century.

Ireland is located on the island of the same name (the third largest in Europe), in the North Atlantic Ocean.

By 2000 BC, a Celtic people had finally established themselves on the island. The modern Irish are the descendants of this people. The Indo-European Celts settled in Ireland in the 7th century BC, during the Iron Age. The Roman Empire called them "**Galli**" – 'Gauls' – 'barbarians', against whom they participated in many military campaigns.

Studies have shown that Ireland has many names and meanings: **Éire, Erin, the Emerald Isle, the Republic, Land of Saints and Scholars** (Rogers, 2016). The name Ireland is derived from the word **Eire**, which is derived from **Ériu**, which in turn is derived from the Proto-Celtic **Iweriu, Iweri**, meaning "**fertile land**". The Romans called it **Hibernia or Ivernia**, which may indicate the connection of the ancestors of the Irish with the ancient inhabitants of the Iberian Peninsula - the Iberians. The first inhabitants of the British Isles were called **Iberians (or Ibers)**.

Many Irish place names contain the names of gods and goddesses. In Irish mythology, there are three goddesses: **Fola, Banba** and **Éiriú**. Soon, one of them, **Éiriú**, wished to become the queen bee and gave her name to the country (Rogers, 2016).

Therefore, the word "**Éire**" is likely derived from the Old Irish word "**Éiru**", which is considered the goddess of fertility, prosperity, and abundance in Ireland, as well as one of the supreme goddesses of the Celtic pantheon.

Ireland is a very beautiful country, rich in history and culture. This country was nicknamed **the "Emerald Isle"** because of its beautiful green nature, breathtaking landscapes and charming coastline.

The word **emerald** - appeared in English in 1300, it was introduced from the Old French **emeraude** in the 12th century, originally the word came from Hebrew (or another related Semitic language, such as Akkadian **barraqtu**), the word "**bareket**" entered Greek as **smaragdos**, which was borrowed by Latin as **smaragdus**. Eventually, in Middle Latin it took the form **esmaraldus**. <https://languagehat.com>

The 18th-century Irish poet **William Drennan** was the first to refer to Ireland as the "**Emerald Isle**" in his poem, where he describes the beauty of Ireland, evergreen and shining like emerald.

The Irish Sea is an inter-island sea in the Atlantic Ocean, between the islands of Great Britain and Ireland.

St. George's Bay, which connects the Irish South Sea with the Celtic Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, is named after a saint who, according to 14th-century legend, swam across the strait.

The Irish Sea is the result of changes in the Earth's crust over the past 20,000 years. It is believed that the Irish Sea was once a large freshwater lake. There are more than 50 islands in the Irish Sea, the two main ones being **the Isle of Man** and **Anglesey**. The Irish Sea is sometimes called **the Sea of Man**.

It is interesting to note the diverse nature of hydronyms, especially the worship of water spirits and deities, dates back to early antiquity. In the mythology of the northern peoples, the river plays an important role, symbolizing the connection between the human world and the supernatural.

The River Severn is the longest river in Great Britain (354 km) and is also considered an important waterway, as it was historically a major trade route. The River Severn rises in central **Wales**, in **the Cumbrian Mountains**, on the eastern slopes of **Plynlimmon**, and flows into the **Bristol Channel**.

The River Severn was formed 15,000 years ago when ice melted on the **North Shropshire Plain**, creating a new route from **the River Dee**, and became known as **the River Severn**.

To this day, many linguists debate the origin of the name of the River Severn. It is believed that it comes from the Celtic language. According to some sources, this name is based on the mythical story of the fairy **Sabrina** drowning in the river.

The writer Claudia Merrill notes: "One theory is that the word **Severn** may be related to the name of the sea nymph **Sabrina** (her early Celtic name, which some scholars believe to be **Samarosina** or **Samarina**, means "*land of summertime fallow*"). For some unknown reason, the nymph Sabrina decided to drown herself in the river. The Latinized form of this name is Sabrina, and the Welsh version is **Afon Hafren** (Welsh for "**boundary**"), which dates back to the 2nd century BC.

A Roman wall was discovered near the Severn, indicating that the river was important to the Romans. This is probably why they decided to translate the name of the river directly from the locals and preserve the legend associated with it.

Afon Hafren is a Welsh local name for the River Severn, associated with a legendary princess who is said to have lived in its waters. The name Hafren was first recorded in Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th-century History of the Kingdom of Britain.

In Geoffrey of Monmouth's tale, Hafren was the beautiful, illegitimate son of King Locrin of the Britons, fathered by his secret lover, the German princess **Estrildis**.

It is significant that Hafren later became the name of the river. Her memory was preserved by poets of later centuries, such as Edmund Spenser in *The Faerie Queen* (1590) and John Milton in his poem *Sabrina the Fair* (1634), who portrayed her as a water nymph. <https://www.claudiamerrill.com>

As a rule, the names of geographical features were explained by means of "folk etymology". Thus, folk etymology connects the Severn with the image of the nymph Sabrina, who, according to legend, died in it. (Mills, 2011)

The name-sake hydronyms of the Severn River flows through the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba in Canada, before flowing northeast into *Severn Lake*. The river eventually flows into Hudson Bay at a point known as Fort Sever located exactly where the Severn River joins *Hudson Bay*. It was originally established as a trading post in the 17th century, in 1689. The river was used by fur traders traveling between the bay and Lake Winnipeg. It was named after the Severn River in the British Isles. <https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca>

It is obvious that the natural world is full of different colors. Color vocabulary is often used in toponyms to express the color characteristics of a geographic object.

Since ancient times, hydronyms have formed a rich vocabulary of colors on Earth. Water reflects bright shades of green and turquoise, which are associated with natural geographical conditions.

Azure, white, black, blue, green, and turquoise hydronyms give a special touch to the nature of Georgia and Britain.

In hydronyms, blue - the dark blue (light blue) color is a real reflection of the landscape, natural scenery, and environment. Blue-water lakes contain a low concentration of algae and other substances, which gives them high transparency and a dark blue color. Some believe that the blue color of water in rivers, lakes, and seas is due to the fact that the water actually reflects the sky.

Located in Abkhazia, in the Gagra municipality, **the Blue Lake** is of karst origin, the lake is filled with water from an underground river and rain.

There are many legends about this mysterious lake, but the most popular is the legend of the Blue-Eyed Old Man. According to this legend, once upon a time there was a cave on the site of this blue lake, in which a blue-eyed, snow-white, and long-bearded old man lived in seclusion. He was distinguished by his wisdom, life experience, and kindness.

One day, strangers visited the old man in a cave to spend the night. He welcomed them warmly, but the greedy and evil guests robbed him and took his life. While taking the stolen goods, a sudden strong stream of water blocked the exit from the cave and they found themselves trapped. Thus, a beautiful blue lake was formed, similar to the old man's blue eyes.

Abudelaury **Colored Lakes** are located in Khevsureti, at the head of the Abudelaury River Gorge, at an altitude of 2600 meters above sea level. Abudelaury Lakes include three lakes - **Green Lake**, **Blue Lake**, and **White Lake**.

Green is one of the most dominant colors in nature, symbolizing growth, abundance, renewal, and life.

Some names of water bodies in Georgia contain the adjective green. **Green Lake** is located in Adjara, in the Khulo municipality, on the northern side of the Arsiani ridge. The lake is clean and transparent. The green color of the lake is given by the dense forest and environment, which reflects the surrounding vegetation, especially the abundance of beech trees around the lake, which gives the water a green hue.

The relief of Britain is mountainous in the north and west, with a rich hydrographic network. The color white is also found in British hydronyms, for example, the **Whitewater** is a river in Scotland, it also flows a very short distance into Northumberland, England, and joins the **River Tweed**.

White Lough, also known as **White Lake**, is a freshwater lake in the northeast of Ireland.

There is one strange hydronym in Georgia, which is associated with the color red. This is the **Tskaltsitela River**, which flows in Imereti, in the municipalities of Tkibuli and Terjola, and originates from the mountain Nakerala located on the Racha ridge. It is also interesting that it has name-sake toponyms: where the Motsameta monastery is located, there was an early medieval fortress-city *Tskaltsitela*. There is also a mountain *Tskaltsitela* in the region of Imereti and Samtskhe-Javakheti, on the border of the municipalities of Bagdati and Akhaltsikhe, on the Meskheti ridge.

There is a legend about *the Tskaltsitela River* that it was named after the historical Khresili War because the water turned red from the blood. However, according to geologists, when the river floods, it washes away the red earth rocks that are found almost everywhere along the river, near the source, and in Okriba, and the water takes on a red color.

In conclusion, it can be said that the paper allows us to investigate the geographical, historical and linguistic aspects of hydronyms located in the British Isles and Georgia.

The research has revealed that the etymology of British and Georgian hydronyms is explained by the Celtic and Georgian linguistic environment, on the basis of which the hydronyms of Georgia and the British Isles were formed.

Thus, etymological and semantic analysis of hydronyms allows us to observe the ethnic and migration processes, settlement routes and directions of peoples in a given territory in the context of historical events.

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