

Analysis of Literary and Historical Approaches to Onomastics

Muxtaramkhon Komilova

Fergana State University, doctoral student PhD, Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article analyzes A. Fowler's "Literary Names", C. Clark's research on medieval English surnames and place names, and E. Ekwall's studies on English toponymy. Within the scope of literary and historical onomastics, the importance of personal and geographical names in social, cultural, and historical contexts is explored. The authors examine the origins, etymology, and semantic aspects of character names, surnames, and place names in detail.

Keywords: Literary onomastics, onomastics, semantics, etymology, symbolism, surnames, place names.

Introduction: Onomastics is a field of study that investigates names and place names, with its literary and historical branches possessing unique features. Literary onomastics serve to reveal the semantic and stylistic aspects of a text through the names of characters. In contrast, historical onomastics aim to illuminate the social and cultural conditions of a particular period through place names and surnames.

A. Fowler's work "Literary Names" is dedicated to the analysis of literary names, whereas the research of C. Clark and E. Ekwall focuses on the origins of English surnames and place names. Literary onomastics plays a crucial role not only in uncovering the author's style but also in analyzing the overall semantic structure of a literary work. Names are key elements in reflecting the inner structure, theme, and idea of a text, and they can be interpreted in various ways by readers. Therefore, literary onomastics assist in shaping the logical and aesthetic concepts of a particular work.

Historical onomastics, on the other hand, deals with the origin of names, their transformation over time, and the influence of different peoples and cultures on one another. Names and place names serve as significant indicators of the linguistic, historical, and ethnic aspects of a specific geographical region, enabling the identification of the unique features of a society.

This article examines these aspects of literary and historical onomastics based on the research of A. Fowler, C. Clark, and E. Ekwall. Their works are

considered essential sources for modern onomastic research and contribute to a deeper analysis of names and place names. A. Fowler conducted a comprehensive study of the role of literary names in works of fiction, emphasizing their semantic and symbolic significance. According to him, character names are not chosen randomly rather, they play a crucial role in shaping the overall idea of the literary work. Names can have multiple layers of meaning and their selection is influenced by cultural, psychological, and sociolinguistic factors.

Fowler also pays attention to the etymological and symbolic dimensions of names, exploring how they carry meaning in literature. This approach highlights the importance of onomastics within literary studies.

C. Clark's research is significant in the context of medieval English onomastics. She is a renowned linguist who conducted in-depth studies on English surnames and place names of the medieval period. Her work focuses on the origins and socio-historical aspects of English surnames. Clark examined the history of surnames using medieval documents such as tax records and other historical sources.

Her book "Words, Names, and History" includes a collection of her studies on surnames and other name-related topics. She demonstrates how English surnames originated, how they changed semantically and phonetically, and how they developed under the influence of historical conditions.

Noteworthy as well are the contributions of E. Ekwall,

who studied English place names extensively. Ekwall is one of the leading researchers in the field, and his book "The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names" is a key reference source. This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the origins of ancient English place names.

Ekwall presents valuable information on the etymology and historical development of place names, highlighting their role in the development of language and culture. His studies are central English toponymy to show how various languages influenced the naming of territorial units, particularly during the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods.

The dictionary includes major place names, counties, ancient cities, villages, and even agricultural lands. Ekwall also excluded place names no longer in use to focus on the main features of modern toponymy.

CONCLUSION

The research conducted by A. Fowler, C. Clark, and E. Ekwall holds an important place in the field of onomastics. Fowler's work sheds light on the internal essence of literary works through names, while Clark and Ekwall explore the origins of English surnames and place names and their socio-cultural significance from a historical onomastics perspective. This article contributes to the enrichment of knowledge related to the literary, historical, and linguistic aspects of names and place names.

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