

Д. Авласенок (УО «Полоцкая государственная гимназия № 1 имени Франциска Скорины»)

А. Г. Палий (научный руководитель)

GEOLINGUISTIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF LIMNONYMS RELATED TO POLOTSK DISTRICT

The Polotsk lowlands comprise 208 registered lakes, spread over the total area of 3.2 thousand square kilometres, which turn the district into an amazing place and attract nature-lovers from all over Belarus and abroad. Due to toponymy, linguists uncover important historical information about a place, provide insight to religious changes in an area, identify specific environmental features and cultural peculiarities. Thus, we have chosen this theme for our research as exploring the limnonyms related to Polotsk district is a way of creating awareness of the national linguistic component by means of categorization and usage.

The work focuses on the examination of lake-names and comprises further research into the investigative potential of the language used in tourism.

The aim of our research is to find out what categories limnonyms related to Polotsk district can be put into and how they can be used as a tourist attraction.

The objective field of the research comprises the sphere of social studies and geolinguistics.

The object of the research includes certain limnonyms of Polotsk district while **its subject** is connected with their categorization and usage.

The theme is the limnonyms connected with the local area, their categories and usage as a tourist attraction.

Thinking over the publications on the topic and taking into consideration life experience, **we have assumed that:**

✓ Most limnonyms of the local area tend to simplification, and they give a general description of a lake or name its certain location;

✓ The funny-sounding, strange or unusual limnonyms may serve as a tourist attraction and contribute to the development of internal tourism.

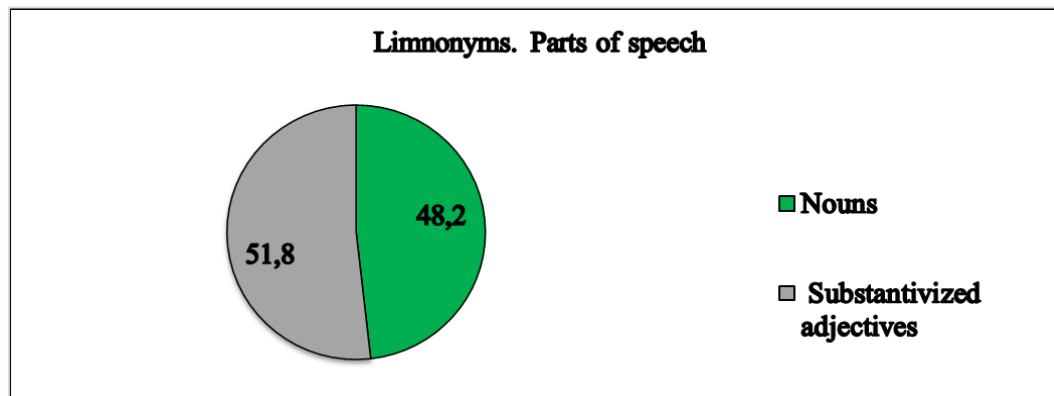
The strategy of the research is:

- to perform categorization of certain limnonyms;
- to make a survey on what limnonyms may serve as a tourist attraction;
- to create a travel-guide based on the limnonyms;
- to compile the glossary of the research.

Methods: analysis of literary and net-sources, methods of statistics, qualitative and quantitative analysis, comparison and categorization, rating etc.

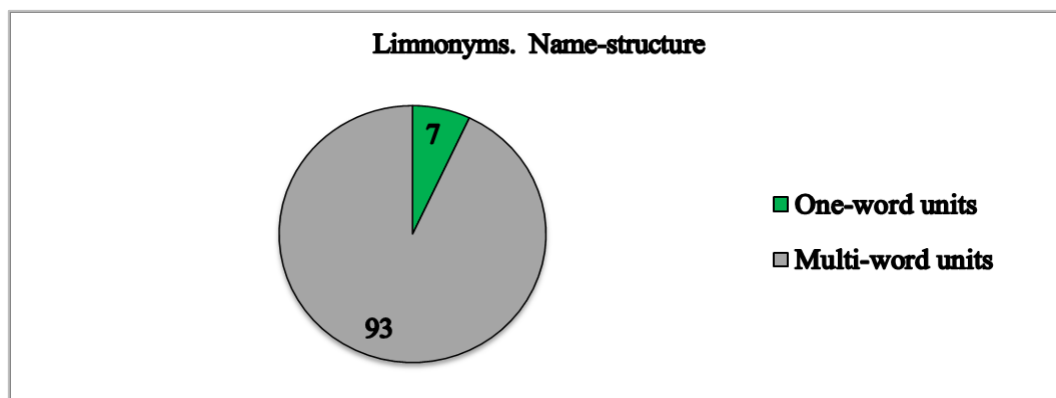
The feature of novelty is specific word-usage, which is aimed at raising interest in geolinguistics, regional studies and tourism in the local area.

The first chapter of our research is devoted to the categorization of limnonyms related to Polotsk district. WordSense Dictionary defines the term “limnonym” (noun) (pl. limnonyms) as “a toponym of a lake”. The Belarusian Poozerje with the Polotsk lowlands is a land of numerous lakes and ponds, so in different net-sources and regional study materials we have collected one hundred ninety-nine limnonyms, which name the lakes of the local area, and decided to put them into categories based on their morphological structure, peculiarities and meaning. The survey showed that ninety-six limnonyms or 48,2 % belong to nouns while one hundred and three lake names or 51,8 % are represented by substantivized adjectives (Graph 1):



Graph 1

Then we analyzed the structure of the limnonyms, and saw that the largest part of the lake-names under discussion is represented by one-word units (Graph 2):



Graph 2

In the next categorization we paid attention to the structure of compound toponyms, to the singular and plural nouns used as the lake-names in Polotsk district, and the morphological structure of the noun-limnonyms. Then, we gave a closer look at the substantivized adjectives and the final step of the categorization was to find out what typical groups substantivized adjectives can be placed into according to their meaning. This categorization can be seen in the following chart (Chart 1):

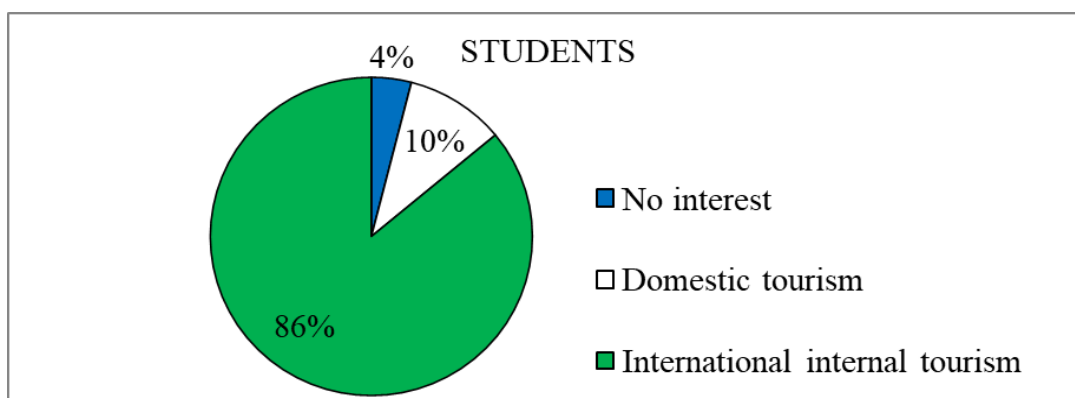
MEANING-CATEGORIZATION		
Category	Number of words	Percentage
1) descriptive	32	31 %
2) possessive	27	26 %
3) locating	39	38 %
4) time-defining	2	2 %
5) combinatory (description+location)	3	3 %

Chart 1

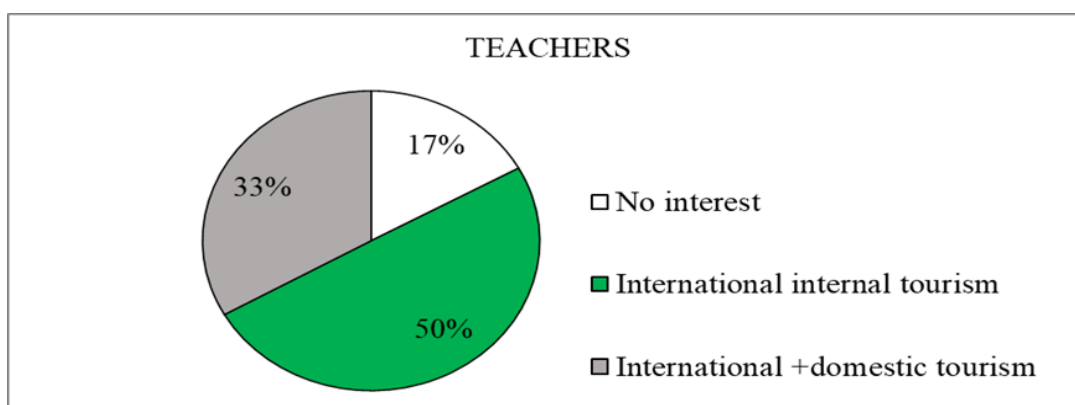
To sum up the contents of the first chapter, we can say that most limnonyms belong to substantivized adjectives, which is explained by the tendency towards simplification, and the simplification is achieved when a word-term of a multi-word unit is omitted, and an adjective turns into a noun-form. Most compound names are represented by either a noun-adjective unit or a unit of two qualitative adjectives. As far as the morphological structure of the noun-limnonyms is concerned, it is obvious that the majority of them can be characterized as simple. The substantivized adjectives are mainly used in the absolute degree, though 55 of them accept a contracted form. According to the meaning categorization the largest groups comprise lake-names that refer to a certain location or give a general description.

The second chapter of the research supports the view that referring to the national component in the process of learning English enables students to get involved in intercultural communication closer, develops cross-curricular skills and the ability to represent one's native land on the international arena. Most Belarusians are ready to welcome foreign guests in our country and serve as tour-guides if it is required. The students and staff of our school are not an exception, so to conduct the survey, we interviewed 50 students of high school and 10 foreign language teachers.

At first, we learnt the pupils' and teachers' opinion on the future of ecological tourism in Polotsk district, and it turns out that the majority students consider that the industry of tourism will get reformed and find ways of attracting more and more clients from abroad. Most teachers of English stand for the idea of a well-developed internal tourist infrastructure. Then we made up two graphs, which demonstrate the variety of opinions, as a percentage (Graph 3 and Graph 4):



Graph 3



Graph 4

After that, we turned to a survey the aim of which was to define what 25 limnonyms the students and teachers consider to be most funny sounding and may serve as a tourist attraction. Our next step was to put theory into practice and create a travel guide based on the limnonyms, which may turn into a tourist attraction in Polotsk district. We made up a digital travel guide with the information about Polotsk district, its most picturesque lakes with unusual names,

places to visit and things to do, means of transportation, accommodation, having meals and other useful tips for visitors. The travel guide is available if you use the following the link: <https://view.genial.ly/650f2bed0f4c840018bf2b70/guide-travel-guide-on-the-lakes-in-polotsk-district>.

Due to the research, we made a spectacle of the limnonyms regarded as a tourist attraction in the local area. The results of the survey prove our hypotheses that:

- Most limnonyms of the local area tend to simplification, and they describe general characteristics of a lake or can be related to its location;
- The funny sounding, strange or unusual limnonyms may serve as a tourist attraction and contribute to the development of internal tourism.

The practical use of the research is needed for scholars who focus on the toponymy and its geolinguistic determinants, teachers who constantly use the national component in the process of education, travel agents who are interested in developing internal tourism in the area and students who have a need for representing their native land on the international arena.